HOLYLAND
MORI KOUJI

COVER DESIGN
HIROAKI KOSHIYA
+N

Jets comics

ホーリーランド 7

森 恒二

白泉社

MORI KOUJI

747

9784592137474
ISBN4-592-13747-7
C9979 ¥505E
白泉社

19299790050 54
定価 本体505円+税
雑誌44319－88

僕の居場所を守る為に　その為に
力を使う　僕の力を……!!!

H O L Y L A N D

高校生・神代ユウは学校にも家庭にも身の置き所がなく、
自分の存在を確認できずにいた。
自分の"居場所（ホーリーランド）"を探して夜の街にいたユウは、
いつしか"ヤンキー狩り"と名付けられ、
ヤンキー達の恐怖の対象と標的となっていた。
親友・シンが襲われ重傷を負った事件を契機にユウは暴走を始め、
ついに"路上のカリスマ"伊沢マサキと激突することになる。
戦いの中、ユウは正気を取り戻すが"力"を失ってしまう。
相手を圧倒する力を失ってしまったユウはヤンキー達の格好の
標的となり、連戦連敗を喫する。
救いを求めるユウはマサキの一言に復活への糸口をつかむ。
そんな中、世田商・吉井はマサキとの因縁を終わらすべく刺客を放つが…。

「競争しなくていい」と言われて
育てられた世代の子供が大人になり、
競争社会に叩き込まれて苦しんでいる。
社会から逃避する若者が続出するのは
ある意味、当然だ。

多くを得ようとすれば「競争」は避けては通れないが、「競う」事に参加できる心はなんとか失いたくない。勝つことよりも、自分を超える物があることを知ってほしい。

――森 恒二

Jets comics
ヤングユニオン
ANIMAL
毎月第2・第4金曜日発売

JETS COMICS

ホーリーランド

7

森 恒二

MORI KOUJI

白泉社

ホーリーランド 7 森 恒二

白泉社

HOLY LAND

JETS COMICS

YOUNG
ANIMAL
PRESENTS

HAKUSENSHA

JETS COMICS

ホーリーランド⑦

森　恒二

ホーリーランド
登場人物紹介

伊沢マイ

マサキの妹であり、ユウやシンの同級生でもある。マサキの過去を知るため、ユウに強い関心を寄せる。

土屋

代沢高校のヤンキー頭。人望あり。レスリングを用いて実力を発揮する。マサキ、ショウゴ、ユウと対マンをはるがすべて負ける。が、不思議な存在感を持つ。

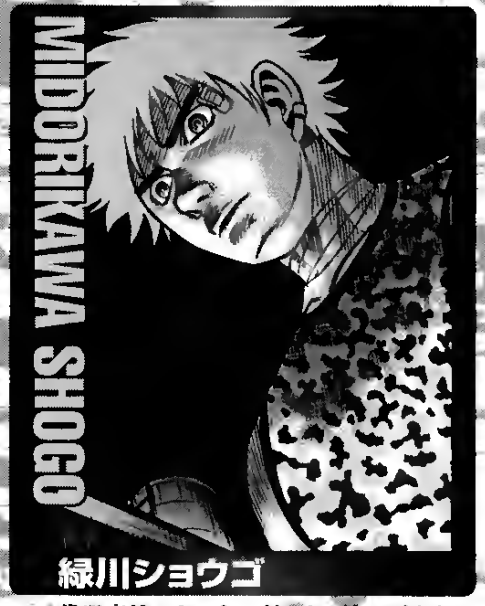
加藤

代沢高校をドロップアウトしたヤンキー。恵まれた体格でケンカ負けなし。シンとショウゴを破壊し、ユウと対マンをはる。怒りに爆発するユウに敗北を喫する。

少年達はどこへ……

金田シンイチ

通称・シン。ユウとマイの同級生。明るい性格でクラスで浮いていたユウにもわけへだてなく接する。

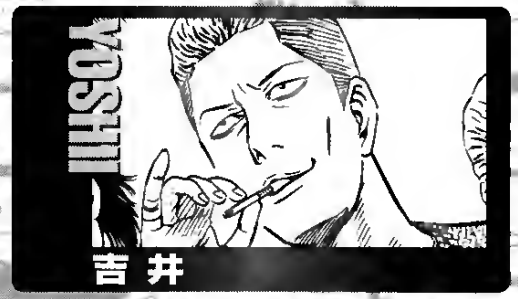


緑川ショウゴ

代沢高校のヤンキーだった。幼い頃から空手を習い、路上格闘に使う。ユウとの対マンを経て、心情が大きく変化する。ユウ、シンとの友情を深めるが、己の強さにこだわりがある。

伊沢マサキ

通称・"路上のカリスマ"。圧倒的な格闘技術を持ち、ヤンキーの誰もが一目置く存在。ユウに大きな興味を覚える。



吉井

世田谷商業のヤンキー頭。マサキと古い因縁があり、常に狙い続ける。今回、タカを使いマサキを潰す絵をかく。

タカ

世田谷商業・剣道部に所属する一匹狼。吉井に借りがあり、マサキへの刺客を請け負う。

かみしろ
神代ユウ

本編の主人公。晃陽高校に通う。イジメなどによって学校にも家庭にも居場所がなく、夜の街で路上格闘をつづける。ヤンキーの間では"ヤンキー狩り"として有名。シン、ショウゴとの友情により自らの居場所をみつけた。

岩戸

世田谷商業・柔道部に所属する。ユウと対マンし、失神させられた。その後、和解し、ユウのピンチを救う。

ホーリーランド 7

HOLYLAND

CONTENTS

act.61	剣道 ~Kendo~	9
act.62	空手Ⅱ ~Karate II~	29
act.63	信仰 ~Faith~	49
act.64	誰が為に ~For Whom~	69
act.65	包囲 ~Surrounded~	89
act.66	不良 ~Thugs~	109
act.67	謀略 ~Tactics~	129
act.68	奇襲 ~Ambush~	149
act.69	覚醒 ~Disillusion~	169
act.70	返答 ~Reply~	189

JETS COMICS

この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などにはいっさい関係ありません。

IN ORDER
TO PROTECT
MY HOLYLAND,

I WILL USE POWER.

MY OWN POWER...!!!

BETWEEN THE ADULT WORLD
AND THE WORLD OF KIDS,
THERE, HOLYLAND EXISTS.
THE LENIENT LAW AND
THE REALITY OF VIOLENCE RULES
A SEPARATE WORLD.
IN THAT WORLD, HE WAS THERE,
YUU KAMISHIRO,
HE WAS, WITHOUT A DOUBT, THERE.

Scanning & Typesetting: GGpX
Translation: [illegible]
Editing: [illegible]
Quality Check: mangatake
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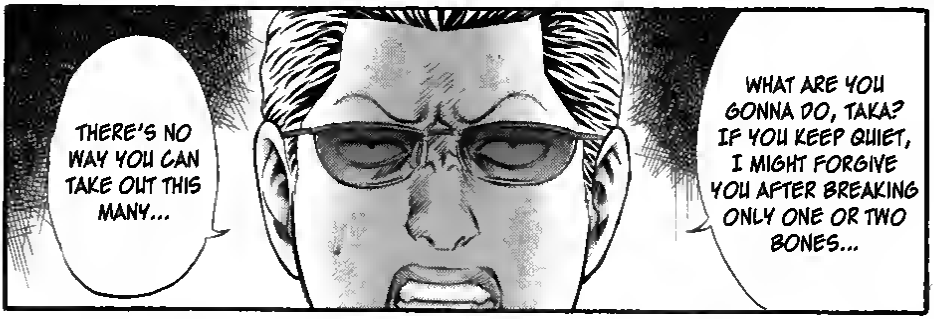
act.61 剣道
~Kendo~

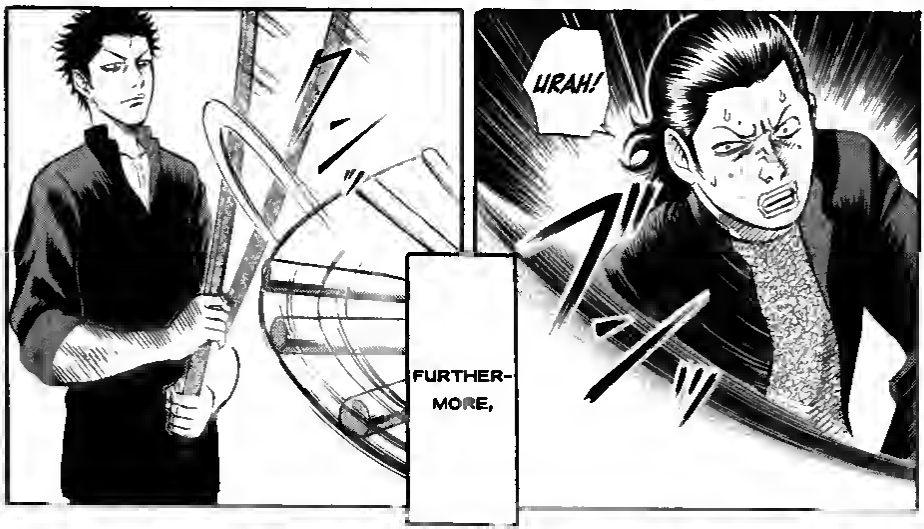
DOES YOSHII-SAN KNOW ABOUT THIS?
GATHERING UP THIS MANY PEOPLE TO COME LYNCH ME... THAT'S PRETTY HARSH!
I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I? THIS IS PERSONAL...


WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO, TAKA? IF YOU KEEP QUIET, I MIGHT FORGIVE YOU AFTER BREAKING ONLY ONE OR TWO BONES...
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN TAKE OUT THIS MANY...

SEEMS LIKE THE APPROPRIATE NUMBER TO ME, THOUGH.
I'M REALLY STRONG, AFTER ALL.

ARE YOU NUTS!? YOU AREN'T THE ONLY ONE WITH A WEAPON HERE.
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN BEAT US.
UNLESS LONG THINGS...
ARE HELD BY SWORDSMEN, THEY WILL NEVER BECOME SWORDS.
WHAT YOU ALL HAVE... ARE JUST STICKS.
ヒュ
WHAT ARE THE TRUE KENDO CAPABILITIES OF THE MAN YOSHII CALLED THE STRONGEST!?

I'M GONNA BREAK THAT DUMB STICK IN HALF!
BASTARD... HE'S JUST SHOWING OFF, BUT IT'S MESSING UP MY CONCENTRATION ...
THE FIRST THING ONE NOTICES IS THE SUBTLY MOVING TIP... NO MATTER HOW HARD ONE TRIES, THE PRESENCE OF THE SWORD CANNOT BE IGNORED, AND THE DISTANCE BETWEEN SEEMS TO BECOME WIDER!!


URAH!
FURTHER-MORE,

THE SNAP OF THE STRIKE IS EXTREMELY FAST AND POWERFUL!!!
OPENING!!

SORRY- IT'S BEEN A WHILE, SO I GUESS I PUT A LITTLE TOO MUCH POWER INTO IT.
I... IT... BROKE... GUHHH!!
GUAAAHHH!!
BUT YOU GUYS CAME HERE WITH THE INTENT TO BEAT ME TO A PULP, RIGHT?
YOU BROKE IT!!

BUT PEOPLE WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN STRUCK ON THE WRISTS BEFORE (UNLIKE PUNCHES) DON'T EVEN HAVE THE SLIGHTEST CLUE HOW TO PROTECT THEMSELVES!!
SO I DON'T WANNA HEAR ANY COM-PLAINTS!
NOT ONLY CAN WOODEN BLADES EASILY CRUSH OPPONENTS' BONES,
YOU GUYS ARE FULL OF OPENINGS-
TIGHTEN IT UP A LITTLE!

IS THE CONCEPT OF "BAIT." WHAT EXACTLY DOES IT MEAN?
D-DAMMIT!
BASTARD!
ANOTHER DANGEROUS POINT

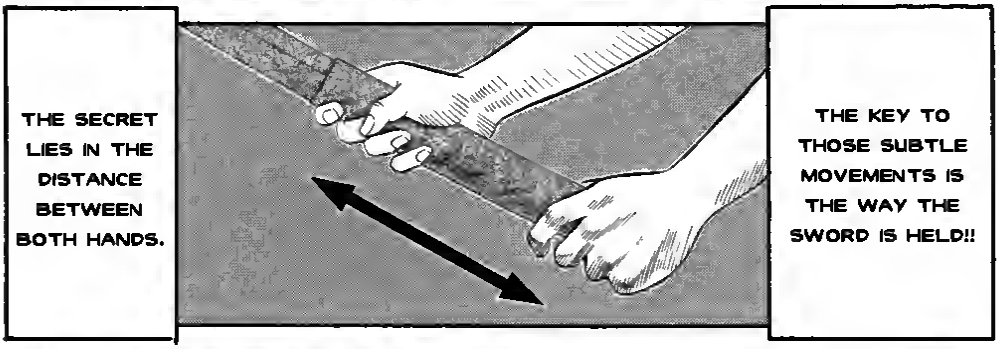
BUT THERE ISN'T ANY-THING MORE DANGEROUS THAN GOING UP AGAINST A SWORDSMAN WITH ONE'S BARE HANDS.
YEAH!!
HE'S ALL ALONE!! LET'S GANG UP ON HIM!
WHEN BOTH PARTIES ARE SWINGING SOMETHING, IT BECOMES A BATTLE OF SWORDS!!
OHHHHHHH!
URAAH!!
ALRIGHT, THEY'RE SERIOUS NOW!

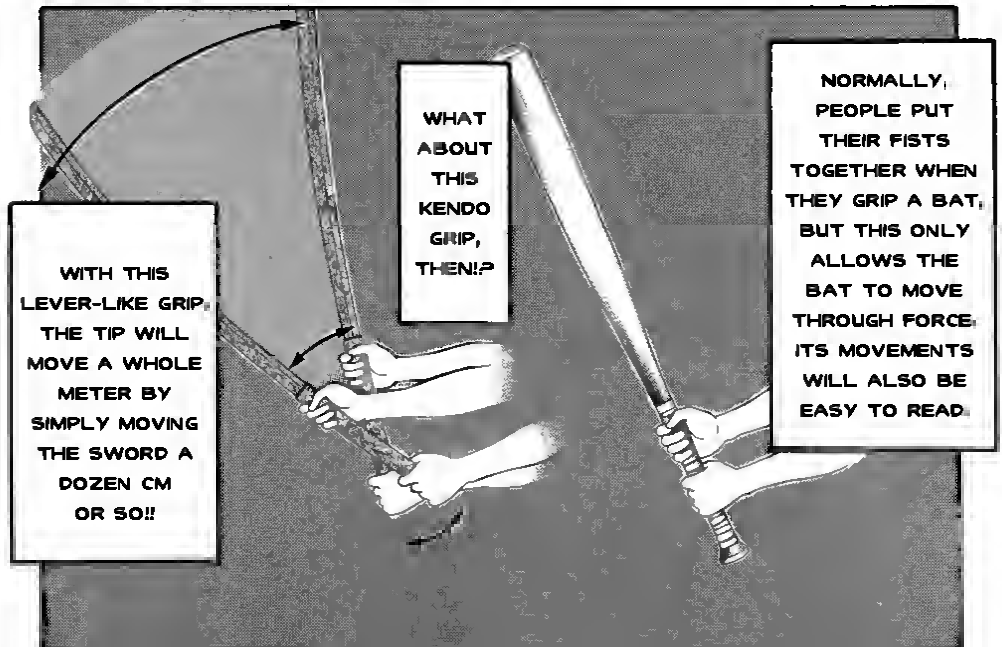
HEAD!
UUH!
KOTEH!

HERE I COME!

HEAAAAAAA!
UWAAH!

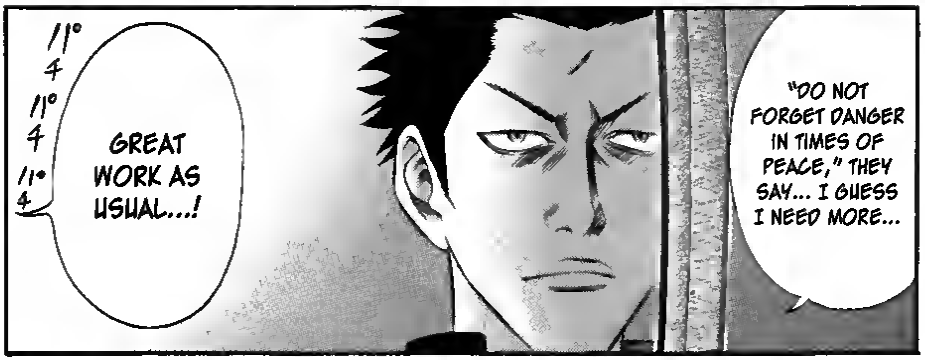
MEANS THAT THE ATTACKS OF A SWORD ARE THAT VERSATILE.
SLIDE TORSO!
A SLIDING STRIKE IS WHEN ONE PRETENDS THAT THEY'RE GOING TO STRIKE THE HEAD AND THEN SLIDES DOWN AND HITS THE TORSO FROM THE SIDE. REGARDLESS OF IT BEING A SINGLE MOVE, THE FACT THAT A FEINT THIS LARGE IS POSSIBLE


THE SECRET LIES IN THE DISTANCE BETWEEN BOTH HANDS.
THE KEY TO THOSE SUBTLE MOVEMENTS IS THE WAY THE SWORD IS HELD!!


WITH THIS LEVER-LIKE GRIP, THE TIP WILL MOVE A WHOLE METER BY SIMPLY MOVING THE SWORD A DOZEN CM OR SO!!
WHAT ABOUT THIS KENDO GRIP, THEN!?
NORMALLY, PEOPLE PUT THEIR FISTS TOGETHER WHEN THEY GRIP A BAT, BUT THIS ONLY ALLOWS THE BAT TO MOVE THROUGH FORCE. ITS MOVEMENTS WILL ALSO BE EASY TO READ.

ADD IN THE ARM AND TORSO MOVEMENTS, AND ONE WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE THE BLADE AROUND FREELY, AS IF IT WAS A PART OF THEIR OWN BODY. WITHIN SECONDS, THE TIP OF THE BLADE CAN TRAVEL METERS——
BUT WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?
THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE—— THE MOVEMENTS ARE IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANY AMA- TEUR TO READ!!!

I STARTED LOSING MY BREATH TOWARD THE SECOND HALF.
How shameful...
LOOKS LIKE I'M A BIT RUSTY...
UUU...
GUH...


11° 4 11° 4 11° 4
GREAT WORK AS USUAL...!
"DO NOT FORGET DANGER IN TIMES OF PEACE," THEY SAY... I GUESS I NEED MORE...

YOSHII!
SORRY ABOUT THIS LITTLE MISUNDER-STANDING.

WHEN? WHERE?
SO, WHAT'S IT GONNA BE?
FINE, FINE, DON'T WORRY.
IT'S FINE, BUT WOULD YOU MIND CLEANING THEM UP FOR ME?
THERE ARE SOME GUYS WITH BROKEN BONES, YOU KNOW.

HE'S THAT MUCH OF A SCUM-BAG?
HMM...
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO USE THE ORDINARY METHOD THIS TIME AROUND. IT'S IZAWA WE'RE DEALING WITH, AFTER ALL.
NOW, NOW, NO NEED TO RUSH THINGS. LET'S JUST TAKE THIS STEP BY STEP.
Just call me Mr Step by Step

BUT I DON'T LIKE GETTING INVOLVED IN MEANINGLESS FIGHTS.
I OWE YOU, YOSHII-SAN, SO I'LL LEND YOU MY SERVICES...

I SEE...
YEAH, YEAH!
IF YOU'RE DOUBTING WHETHER HE'S REALLY A BAD GUY OR NOT, JUST LET ME TELL YOU THIS: ALL OF THE PROBLEMS AROUND HERE LATELY HAVE BEEN THE RESULT OF HIM SECRETLY CONTROLLING THE THUG HUNTER FROM THE SHADOWS!
MY MEN HAVE BEEN TARGETED ONE AFTER ANOTHER...
IT'S LIKE TERRORISM, MAN! VIOLENT TERRORISM!
LEAVE IT TO ME!
ALRIGHT, FINE.
THAT WAS QUICK, YOSHII-SAN...
YEAH, THERE ISN'T A SIMPLER GUY ALIVE THAN THIS ONE.
HE USES BOXING, AND IS PRETTY STRONG... AND HE APPARENTLY HAS TIES WITH YAKS...
I WONDER WHAT THEY ARE.
SERIOUSLY...? THAT'S NO LAUGHING MATTER...
the Yakuza...

HE'S A GUY WHO GOT FED UP WITH THE BASTARD'S EVIL WAYS AND ESCAPED... THE NAME'S NOBORU.
'SUP?
THERE'S ONE MORE GUY WHO WILL BE HELPING US OUT.
LISTEN TO WHAT HE HAS TO SAY, ALRIGHT...
C'MON OUT.
.....
Hmm...
NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT TO DO IS SET THE STAGE...
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU, TAKA. HELP US CLEAN UP THIS TOWN...

IT JUST MEANS YOU HAVE TO PUT OUT ALL THE FIRES THAT DROP DOWN ON YOU, LIKE THIS! BAM, BAM!
THERE'S NO MEANING, IT'S JUST SELF DEFENSE!!!
SH... SHIN-CHAN...
WHAT'S THE MEANING...
OF "POWER LIES IN THE FIST"!??
IT'S BECAUSE FISTS COME AT YOU THAT YOU HAVE TO GET STRONGER! THERE'S NO REAL MEANING BEHIND IT ALL!
Only people with luxury have the time to think about philosophy!
IT'S JUST BECAUSE IZAWA-SAN IS SO STRONG THAT HE HAS THE LUXURY OF PONDERING PHILOSOPHY LIKE THAT.
Luxury, man, luxury!
I FEEL LIKE... IT'S CONNECTED WITH THAT... SOMEHOW.
BUT...
YOU JUST NEED TO HURRY UP AND FIX YOUR FORM.
IT'S COLD-HEARTED IF YOU ASK ME. HE'S THE ONE AT FAULT FOR YOUR SLUMP, YUU.

THE REASON I HAVE NO POWER RIGHT NOW... AND THE MEANING OF POWER.
I FEEL LIKE I WON'T BE ABLE TO STEP FORWARD UNLESS I SOLVE THAT RIDDLE.

BUUUT THE GUY HIMSELF DOESN'T EVEN KNOW THE ANSWER, RIGHT?
IT'S PROBABLY... DIFFERENT FOR EACH PERSON... I THINK.
HE'S NOT THE KIND OF GUY TO SAY MEANINGLESS THINGS... THERE'S SOMETHING THERE.
I THINK THE ORIGINAL REASON MY FORM BROKE WAS BECAUSE THE PROBLEM IN MY HEART GREW TOO LARGE.

YOU REALLY ARE A COMPLI-CATED GUY... WELL, ANYWAY.
IT'S SO LIKE YOU TO SIT AND BROOD LIKE THAT. I GUESS IT CAN'T HURT.
THE WAY YOU WERE WHEN YOU WERE UP AGAINST IZAWA-SAN WASN'T YUU-ESQUE AT ALL.
IT WAS MORE LIKE-
!!

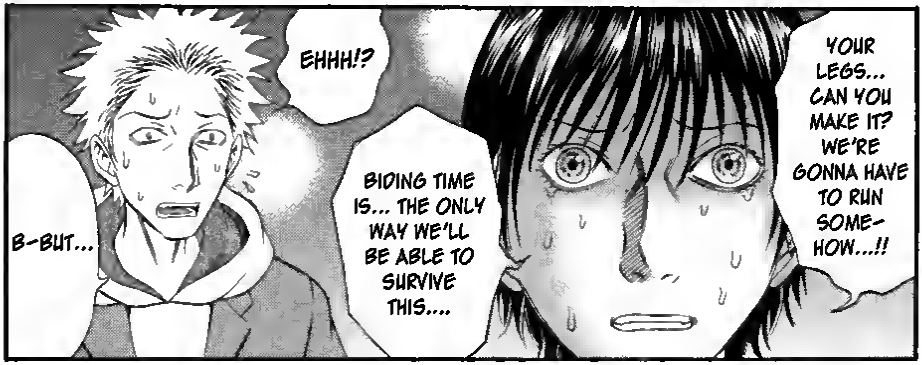
THAT'S RIGHT!! I LOST MYSELF EVER SINCE KATOU-SAN...
AND WHEN I FOUND MYSELF AGAIN, MY FORM WAS BROKEN...
SHIN-CHAN... I... THINK I...

OHH!? FIGURED SOMETHING OUT!?
I DON'T KNOW... BUT...
OHHH, YOU REALLY HIT ON SOMETHING BIG, HUH!?

OH, SERIOUSLY?
THUG HUNTER! HEY, IT'S THE THUG HUNTER!! C'MERE!
!!
NO WAY, FOR REALS?
YES

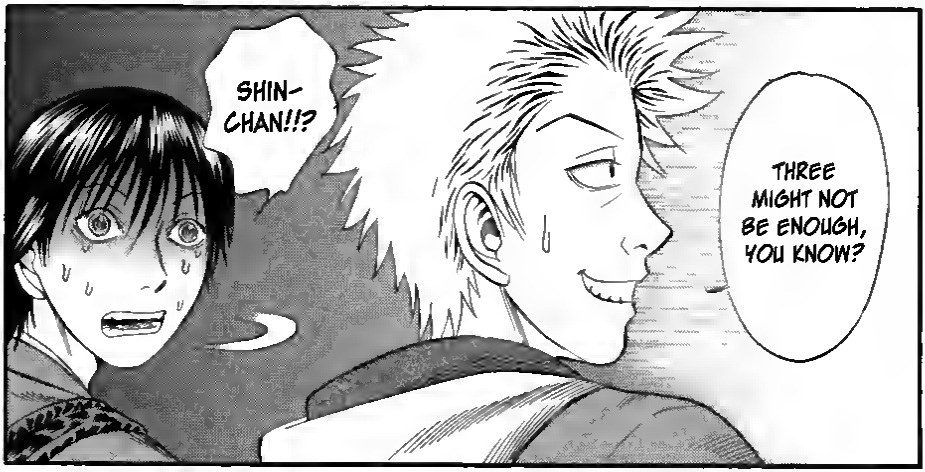
SH-SHIN-CHAN!!
YOU WANNA GO, BITCH!?
OH, LOOK, HE ALREADY WANTS TA ICE US!
OHHH ...
YES

THREE.. I CAN'T TAKE THEM ALL THE WAY I AM NOW...
SH-SHIN... CHAN...
YEAH, YEAH! AND THAT YOU'RE ACTUALLY PRETTY WEAK!
YOU CAN GLARE AT US ALL YOU WANT, THUG HUNTER, IT AIN'T GONNA CHANGE SHIT... WE ALL HEARD ABOUT HOW YOU GOT YOUR WOLF SKIN TORE OFF...


B-BUT...
EHHH!?
BIDING TIME IS... THE ONLY WAY WE'LL BE ABLE TO SURVIVE THIS....
YOUR LEGS... CAN YOU MAKE IT? WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO RUN SOME-HOW...!!

EHHH!!? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?? WE HAVE TO RUN!
LET'S TRY AND... STAY HERE FOR A LITTLE LONGER...

!
WHAT ARE YOU TWO BLABBERING ABOUT!? JUST GIVE UP!
THERE'S THREE OF US!


SHIN-CHAN!!?
THREE MIGHT NOT BE ENOUGH, YOU KNOW?

!?
HEY, YOU'RE LATE!
WHAT WAS THAT, MOTHER FUCKER!?
YES

ARE YOU EMITTING SOME WEIRD SIGNALS OR SOMETHING?
SHUT UP. WHY ARE YOU TWO ALWAYS IN TROUBLE WHEN I COME TO MEET YOU, ANYWAY?

SHOUGO-KUN!!!
SHO...
Hehe!

Scanning & Typesetting: GGpX
Translation: Molokidan
Editing: Infinity & Nitouryu
Quality Check: TastMaster & Zenquibo
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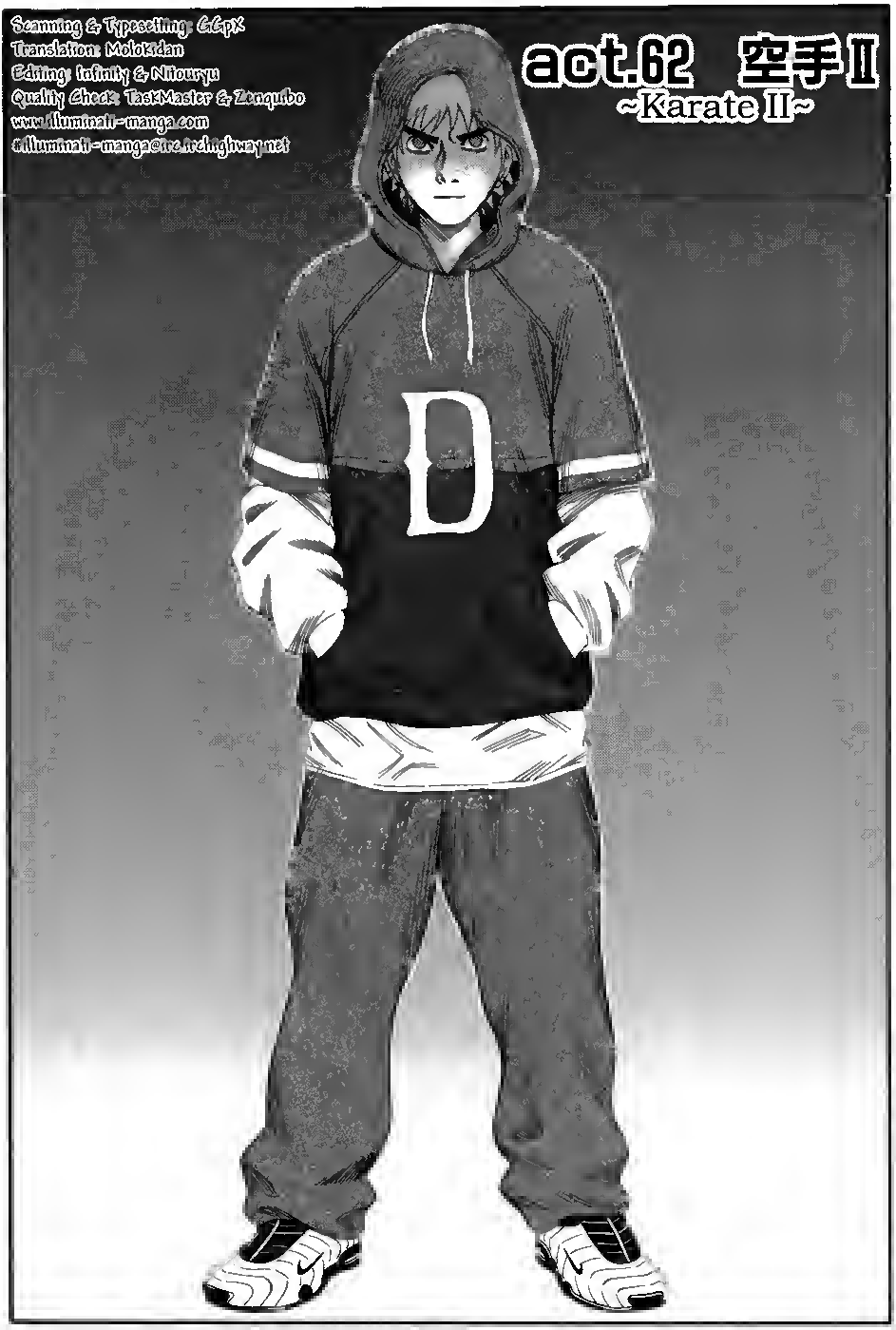
act.62 空手Ⅱ
~Karate II~



WHAT? THAT LITTLE RUNT IS YOUR FRIEND?
WHO CARES! WE'LL JUST TAKE THE REST OF THEM OUT AFTER THE THUG HUNTER!

LOOKS LIKE THOSE BIG GUYS DON'T HAVE A LITTLE RUNT LIKE ME IN THEIR SIGHTS... WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO, KAMISHIRO?
UM... I'LL TRY SOMETHING! W-WATCH SHIN-CHAN FOR ME!
YUU! BUT...!!

ENOUGH TALK! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE GOOD AT VERSUS MATCHES, RIGHT THUG HUNTER!? THEN I'LL BEAT YOU AT YOUR OWN GAME, ONE ON ONE!!!
YEAAAH, DO IT!
LEAVE A LITTLE PIECE FOR ME, THOUGH!
YOU TWO JUST STAND BACK AND WATCH WHILE I POUND THIS CHUMP!!

I CAN DO THIS!
I NEED TO BELIEVE IN MYSELF!!
HIS PHYSIQUE LOOKS QUITE GOOD...BUT...
C'MON, LET'S GO!
AND I HAVE SHOUGO-KUN BEHIND ME NOW.
I'VE ALSO BEEN TRAINING.
YES
IT'S TIME TO WATCH AND DE-TERMINE THE TRUTH WITH THESE TWO EYES OF MINE.
I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE THAT HIS STRENGTH IS SOMETHING THAT FALLS INFERIOR TO EVEN AMATEURS!!
KAMISHIRO'S POTENTIAL HAS RISEN EVERY TIME I'VE MET HIM...
YUU!

I CAN DO IT!
Those ugly wounds...
—are holding me back...—
I CAN DO IT!
A STRAIGHT!!
THRUST OUT
!!!

ALRIGHT!!
GUOH!!
!!!
A GRAB ...!!?
WHA...

AHH!
...MOTHER FUCKER!!
AAAHH
UOOOH
GYAH!
UOOHH!!
AHH!

hah
hah
TH-THIS AIN'T NOTHING... I HAVEN'T EVEN GOTTEN STARTED YET.
GUH...
YES
IS... THIS REALLY ALL YOU GOT...?
hah
hah
hah
hah
hah
!?
STOOOOP!!
KAMISHIRO YUU!? YOU CAN'T BE!!!
WH...WHAT THE HELL IS THIS!!? A-ARE... YOU REALLY KA... MI... SHIRO...

SHOU... SHOUGO... KUN?
WHAT HAPPEN-ED!?
Y-YOU AND I...!!
SHOUGO... YOU...
AND YOU AND IZAWA... WHAT...
I REFUSE TO ACCEPT THIS...!!
SHUT THE FUCK UP!! RUNTS SHOULD KNOW WHEN TO KEEP QUIET!!!
THE HELL DO YOU WANT!? STOP WHINING FROM THE SIDELINES LIKE THAT!
You don't even make any sense
SHOULD WE CLEAN HIM UP FIRST?
OHHHH... YOU GOT SOME NERVE, RUNT.
WHAT!!?

THE WAY YOU ARE NOW, I DON'T EVEN WANT TO CALL YOU KAMISHIRO YUU.
JUST SIT AND WATCH...
WHAT I, YOUR EQUAL,
AM CAPABLE OF!!!

YOU SURE TALK COOL, YA STUPID THICK-EYEBROWED BITCH...
EAT THIS!!!

THOSE WHO PRACTICE FULCON* OFTEN SAY "ONE LOW (KICK) IS ENOUGH FOR AMATEURS."
*Full-contact karate
AGH...
THEY OFTEN GIVE REASONS LIKE "IT'S EASY TO MAKE CONTACT WITH," OR "IT ENDS THINGS WITHOUT DEALING MAJOR DAMAGE (TO THE HEAD OR OTHER ORGANS)"
*Also that it lowers the stress for the attacker

II... UGGH...
BUT THE REAL REASONS HAS TO DO WITH RELIABILITY.
UNLESS ONE'S LEGS ARE INCREDIBLY TOUGH, THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE HOT, HEAVY, AND PARALYZING PAIN THAT SOON FOLLOWS.
OHH-
YUKIO!
GUAHH... MY... LEG...
BAS- TARD!!

BUT IN THAT POSITION... HE'LL BE SURROUNDED ...!
Y-YEAH...
YOU ALRIGHT, YUU?
UHOOOHH! AMAZING FORCE, AS USUAL!

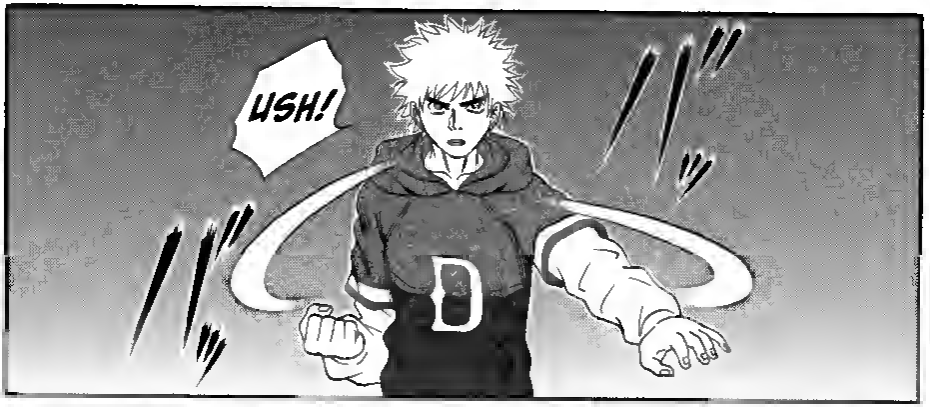
YEAH!
GOT IT!?
HEY, LET'S MOVE IN UNISON!

ORAAAHH!!
ALRIGHT!! LET'S GO!

UUU!
IT'S OVER, FUCKER!!!
SHOUGO-KUN!!

OWAHHH!!
AHHH!!!
EYAAAHH!!

AH..
IIH...
SEI!


USH!

A... MAZING!!
WH... WHAT FLUIDITY... HIS MOVEMENTS WERE SO BEAUTIFUL...

KARATE... LIVES WITHIN SHOUGO-KUN'S... BODY.
THAT'S WHAT MARTIAL ARTS ARE ABOUT.
IZAWA... SAN... AND IWADO-SAN... TOO...

IT FEELS LIKE ALL MY VICTORIES SO FAR HAVE BEEN COIN-CIDENCES... AND I STILL CAN'T SHAKE THAT FEELING OF HAVING LOST MYSELF.
IT'S ABOUT PERSONAL ABILITY.
WHICH HAS NOTHING... NOTHING TO DO...
PATHETIC!
!!
ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!!!

THE CAUSE OF THIS IS VERY CLEAR, THOUGH.
SHUT UP! I'M JUST SPEAKING THE TRUTH.
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING THAT FOR!?
you, you...
DON'T ACT LIKE YOU'RE SO MUCH BETTER THAN EVERYONE!!

THE CAUSE... IS CLEAR ...
!!
I REFUSE TO ACCEPT THIS STATE YOU'RE IN RIGHT NOW!
But it's true!
THERE ARE IDIOTS LIKE THIS GUY WHO BELIEVE WE'RE EQUALS, AFTER ALL.
SO I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU REVERT BACK TO YOUR REAL SELF...
KAMISHIRO YUU!!

act.63 信仰
~Faith~

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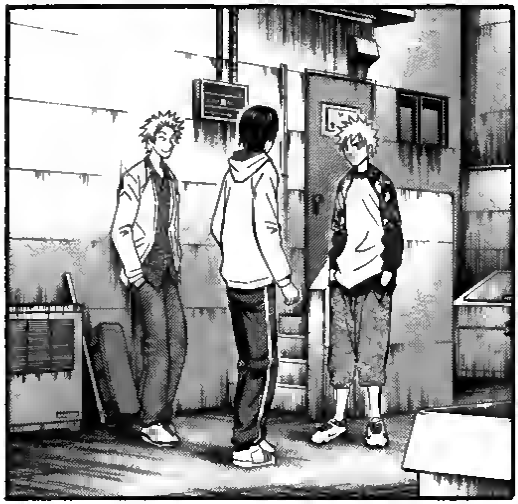
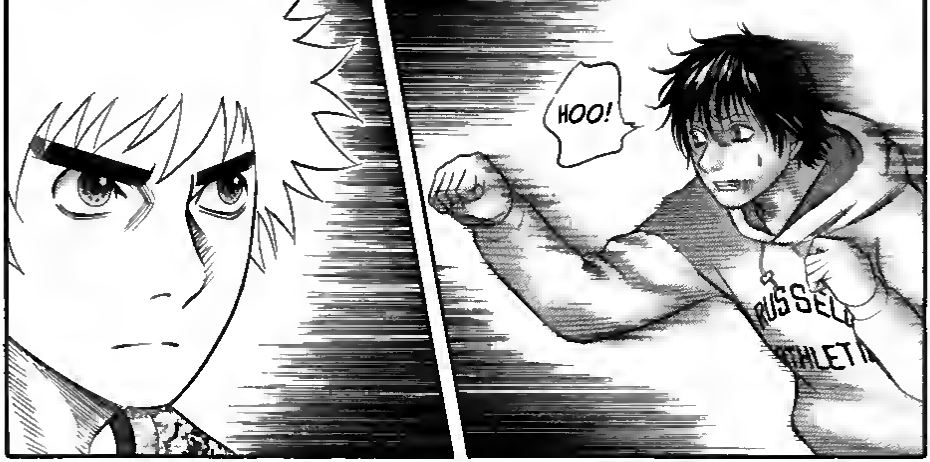


AS HARD AS I CAN...?
IT'S ALRIGHT ...?
YOU REALLY SURE...

DON'T HOLD ANYTHING BACK, AND SEND YOUR BEST PUNCH RIGHT HERE!
IF YOU'RE JUST GONNA MOPE AROUND LIKE THAT, THEN I'M LEAVING.
THE REASON WHY YOUR PUNCHES HAVE BECOME USELESS——
DON'T MAKE ME TELL YOU AGAIN. YOU WANNA KNOW, RIGHT?
C'MON, C'MON, GIVE IT TO HIM, YUU!!
IT'S HIS FAULT FOR TELLING YOU TO!
ゴク…
THEN HURRY IT UP!
D-DON'T LEAVE! I-I'LL DO IT...
UU…


HOO!

!!!

DEFLECTED...
WHA...!? I-IT WAS SO EASILY ...
HEY! NO BREAKS, SEND OUT ANOTHER!

MY, MY... WHAT KINGDOM ARE YOU FROM, PRINCESS?
OR ARE YOU JUST A FAG?
THIS CAN'T BE!!
HE'S NOT EVEN "TAKING" THE PUNCHES... HE'S JUST SENDING THEM AWAY...
YUU.. JUST WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, MAN?
WAAAHH!!
NOT EVEN CLOSE YET...
WHAT'S WRONG!?

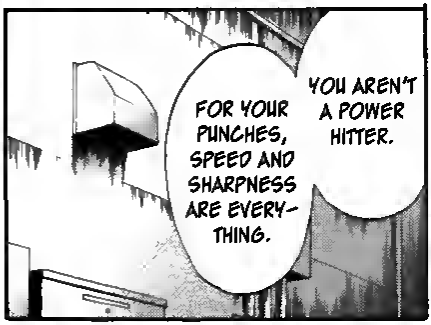
uuu...
AAAHHHH!!
WHAT? FINISHED ALREADY?
hah
hah
hah
hah
THUG HUNTER MY ASS... DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
WHOA THERE!
ボン
E... ELBOW...!?
I... IT WAS DE-FLECTED ...

I KEEP CONTINUING MY TRAINING... BUT IN REALITY I JUST KEEP GETTING WORSE...!!
D-DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! EVEN MATSUI AND ICHIRO* HAVE THEIR SLUMPS...
J... JUST WHAT IS GOING ON WITH ME...
LOOK AT WHAT I'VE BECOME...

*REFERING TO THE FAMOUS JAPANESE BASEBALL PLAYERS HIDEKI MATSUI AND ICHIRO SUZUKI

THE SPEED FROM YOUR LOWER HALF ISN'T TRAVELING TO YOUR UPPER HALF! YOUR BODY IS WIDE OPEN AND YOUR FRONT LEG ISN'T CREATING A WALL!!
THAT'S WHY THERE'S FAULT IN YOUR AXIS, AND THE SPINNING OF YOUR UPPER BODY IS... UM... GETTING DULLER..

SHARP... NESS...

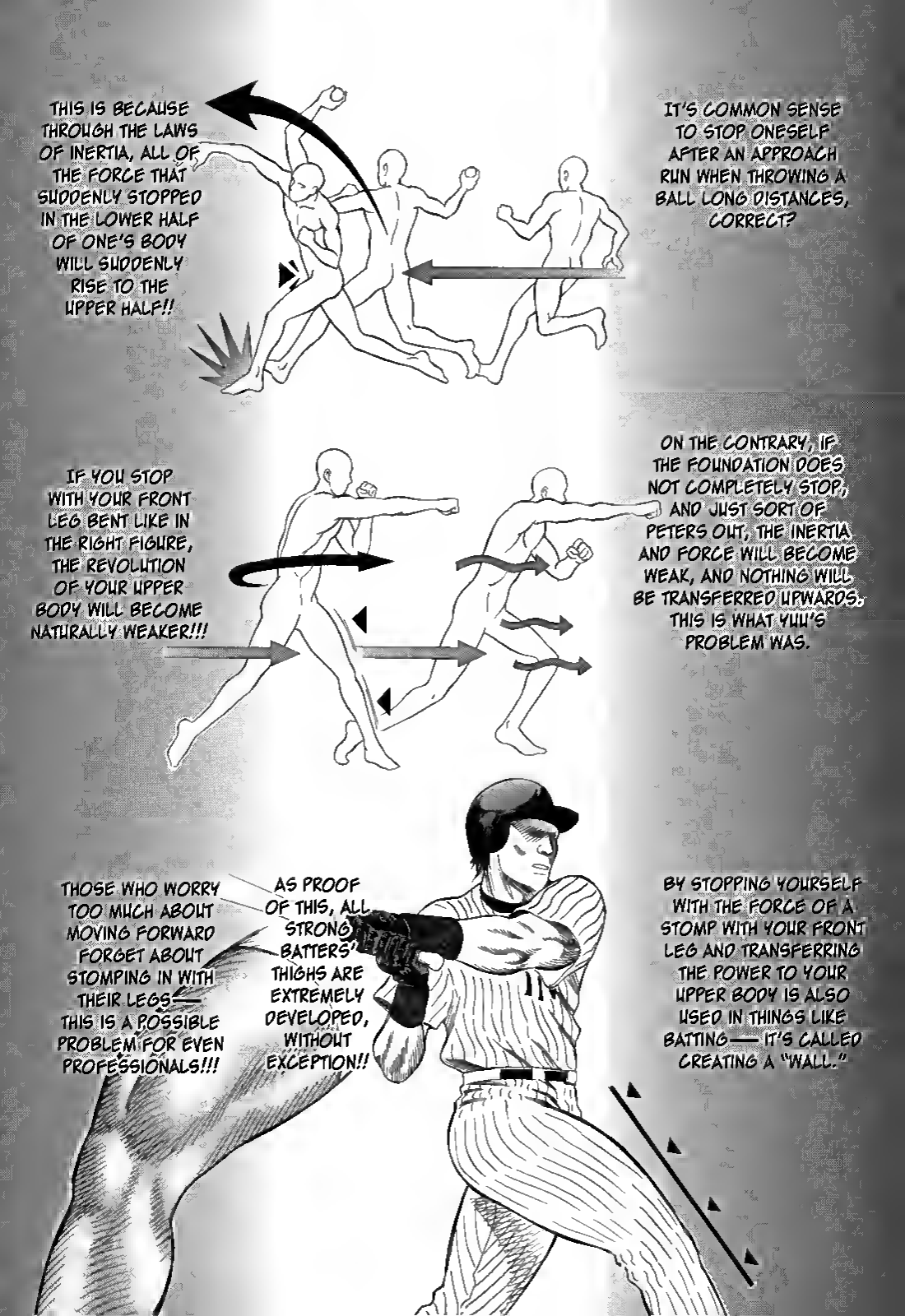

YOU AREN'T A POWER HITTER.
FOR YOUR PUNCHES, SPEED AND SHARPNESS ARE EVERY-THING.

STICK ...?
YOU SHOULD TRY FINISH-ING YOUR EXPLANA-TIONS WITH YOUR MOUTH FOR ONCE!
GIVE ME THAT STICK!
C'mon!
ANYWAY!! IT'S EASIER JUST TO TRY IT THAN TO LISTEN TO MY EXPLANA-TION! HEY, SHIN!?

A-ALRIGHT.
THAT'S IT! NOW HURRY IT UP.

AND THEN TRY THROWING A SHARP PUNCH!!
LISTEN CAREFULLY. I WANT YOU TO STICK THE TOES OF YOUR LEFT FOOT IN THIS POSITION AGAINST THIS STICK, WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE,

M...
MY BODY ...!!


THIS IS BECAUSE THROUGH THE LAWS OF INERTIA, ALL OF THE FORCE THAT SUDDENLY STOPPED IN THE LOWER HALF OF ONE'S BODY WILL SUDDENLY RISE TO THE UPPER HALF!!
IT'S COMMON SENSE TO STOP ONESELF AFTER AN APPROACH RUN WHEN THROWING A BALL LONG DISTANCES, CORRECT?
IF YOU STOP WITH YOUR FRONT LEG BENT LIKE IN THE RIGHT FIGURE, THE REVOLUTION OF YOUR UPPER BODY WILL BECOME NATURALLY WEAKER!!!
ON THE CONTRARY, IF THE FOUNDATION DOES NOT COMPLETELY STOP, AND JUST SORT OF PETERS OUT, THE INERTIA AND FORCE WILL BECOME WEAK, AND NOTHING WILL BE TRANSFERRED UPWARDS. THIS IS WHAT YUU'S PROBLEM WAS.
THOSE WHO WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT MOVING FORWARD FORGET ABOUT STOMPING IN WITH THEIR LEGS— THIS IS A POSSIBLE PROBLEM FOR EVEN PROFESSIONALS!!!
AS PROOF OF THIS, ALL STRONG BATTERS' THIGHS ARE EXTREMELY DEVELOPED, WITHOUT EXCEPTION!!
BY STOPPING YOURSELF WITH THE FORCE OF A STOMP WITH YOUR FRONT LEG AND TRANSFERRING THE POWER TO YOUR UPPER BODY IS ALSO USED IN THINGS LIKE BATTING— IT'S CALLED CREATING A "WALL."

SURELY I WON'T BE ABLE TO DEFLECT THEM WITH MY ELBOW THIS TIME.
LET'S SEE THE TRUTH WITH YOUR FISTS.
SHOUGO-KUN!!
J-JUST NOW, MY BODY TURNED ON ITS OWN!! I... THIS IS...
Y-YEAH...
WE'RE NOT FIN-ISHED YET.

SHARPNESS AND SPEED IS EVERYTHING!! DON'T FORGET THAT!!!
THESE AREN'T AMATEUR PUNCHES THAT RELY ONLY ON ARM POWER!!
READY !?

THAT YOU'RE REALLY YOU!!!
PROVE TO ME ONCE AND FOR ALL
NOW C'MON !!!

ME!!
THAT I'M REALLY
YUU!!
GO!!!
I'M...!!!
THE MEANING OF THAT...

UOOHHH!!?

ザ ザ ザ
ブル ブル ブル
KAMI... SHIROO O...
ブル ブル ブル
YUU...?

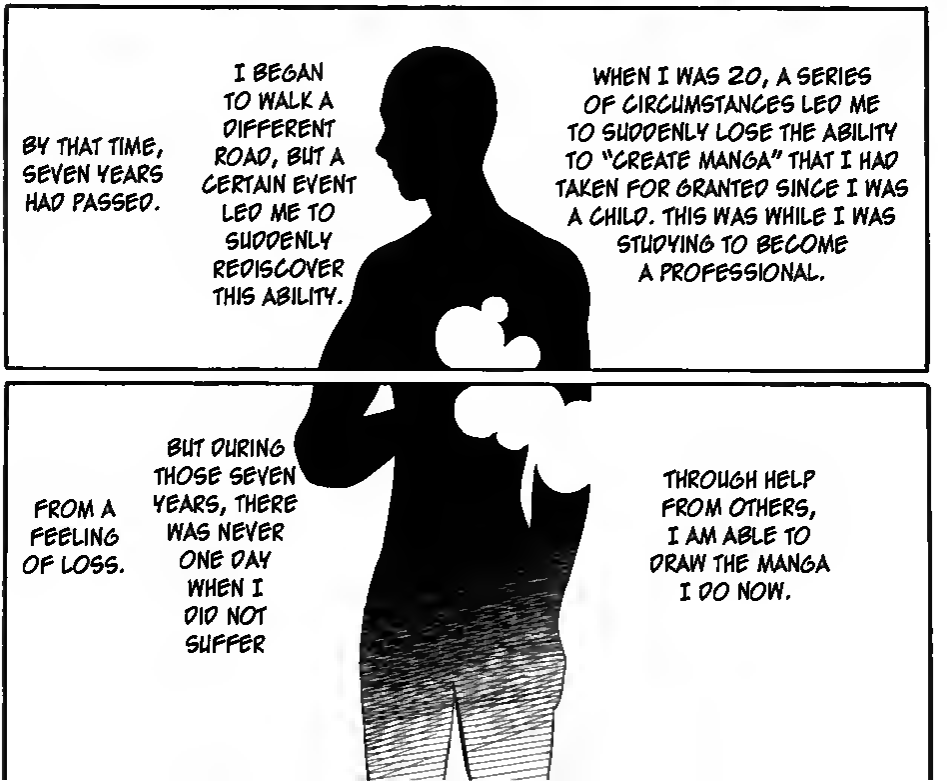
ブル
ブル
ブル
ブル

MY...!!!
IT'S RETURNED ...

THIS IS—
FIST... POWER...

MY GOD!

YOU READERS MAY HAVE TOO.
EXCUSE THE SUDDENNESS, BUT I TOO (THE AUTHOR) HAVE ALSO HAD EXPERIENCE IN LOSING SOMETHING.
THAT WHICH MUST NEVER BE LOST—— TO YUU, THAT IS THE POWER THAT LIES IN HIS FISTS. IT COULD EVEN BE CALLED A FAITH THAT MADE HIS PRAYER TO "CHANGE" BECOME POSSIBLE.


BY THAT TIME, SEVEN YEARS HAD PASSED.
I BEGAN TO WALK A DIFFERENT ROAD, BUT A CERTAIN EVENT LED ME TO SUDDENLY REDISCOVER THIS ABILITY.
WHEN I WAS 20, A SERIES OF CIRCUMSTANCES LED ME TO SUDDENLY LOSE THE ABILITY TO "CREATE MANGA" THAT I HAD TAKEN FOR GRANTED SINCE I WAS A CHILD. THIS WAS WHILE I WAS STUDYING TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL.
FROM A FEELING OF LOSS.
BUT DURING THOSE SEVEN YEARS, THERE WAS NEVER ONE DAY WHEN I DID NOT SUFFER
THROUGH HELP FROM OTHERS, I AM ABLE TO DRAW THE MANGA I DO NOW.

IT IS TRULY A WONDERFUL THING TO BE ABLE TO TREAT SOMETHING WITH SO MUCH CARE THAT IT FEELS LIKE IT'S A PART OF YOURSELF.
JOBS, FRIENDS, LOVERS, FAMILY, INTERESTS, BELIEFS——
THAT MUST REALLY BE WHAT THE WORD "PRICELESS" MEANS.

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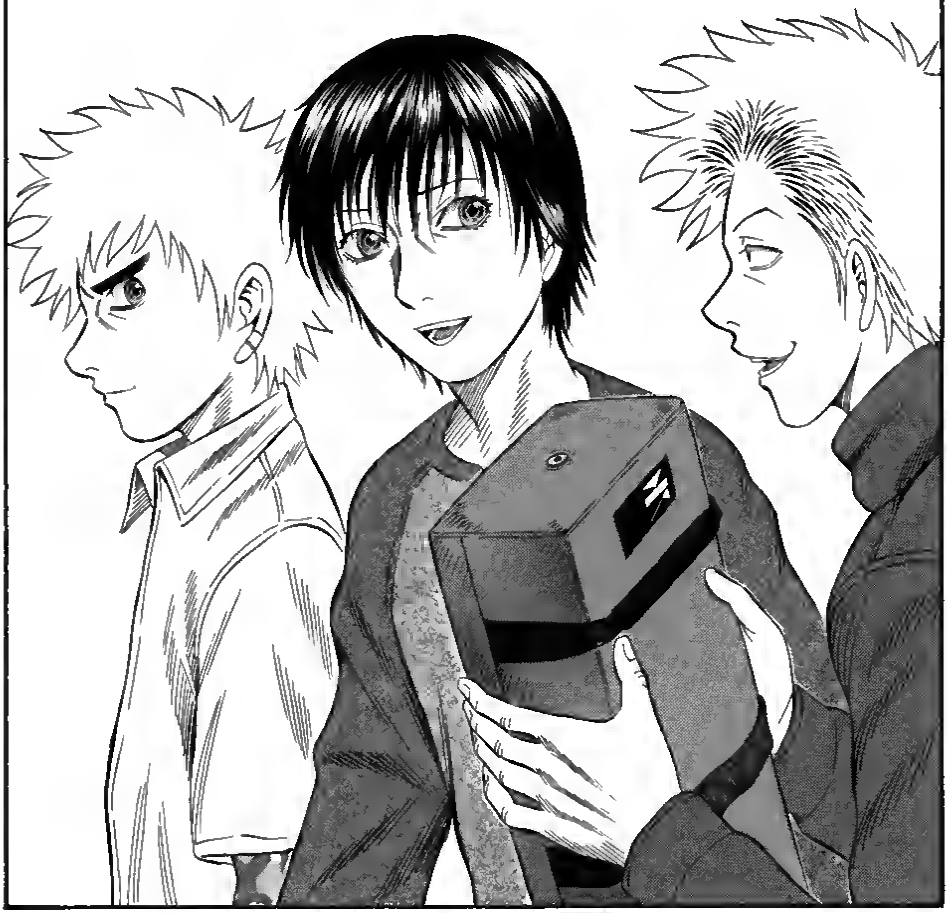
act.64　誰が為に

~For Whom~



ドド
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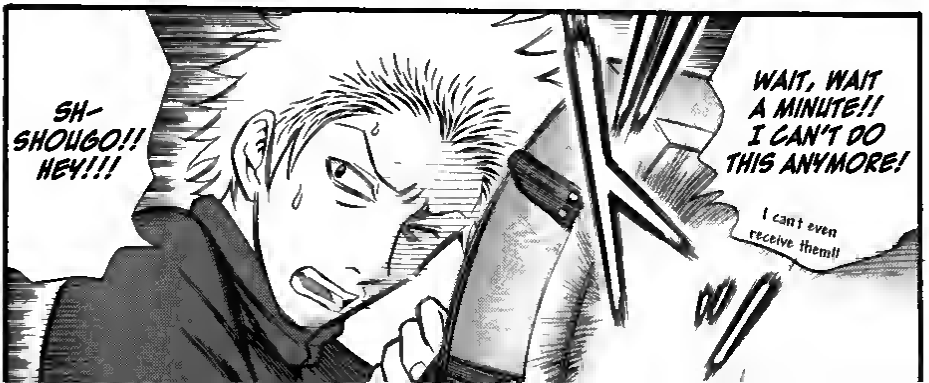
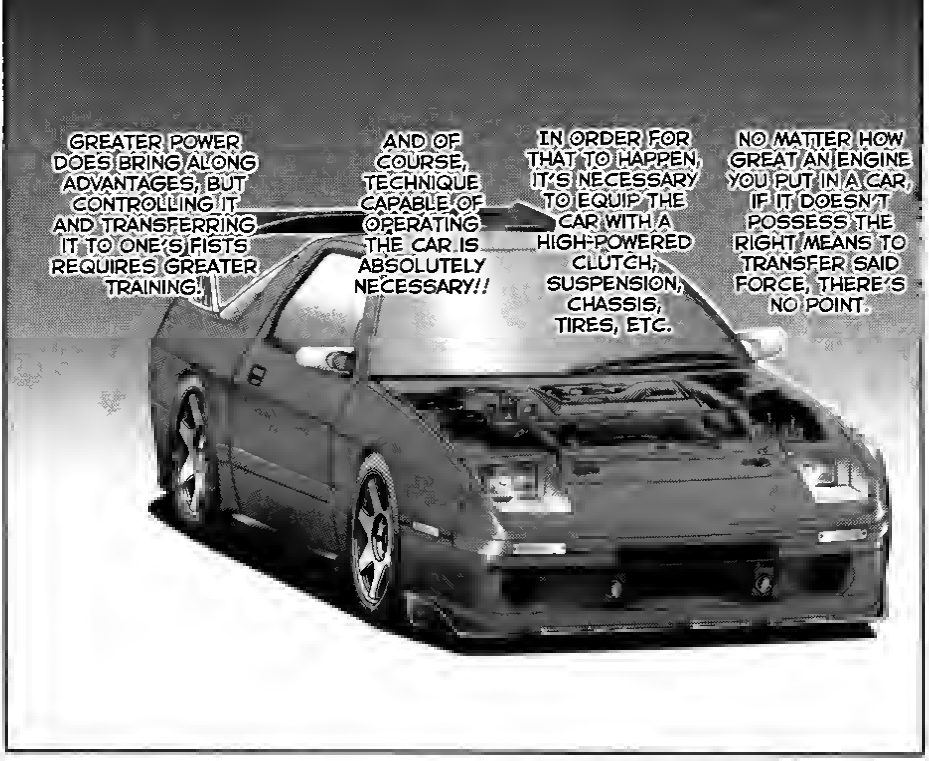
NOWAH!


SH-
SHOUGO!!
HEY!!!
WAIT, WAIT
A MINUTE!!
I CAN'T DO
THIS ANYMORE!
I can't even
receive them!!

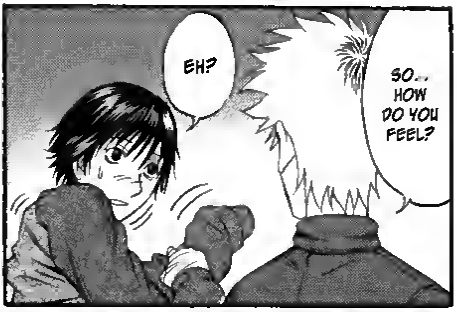
...KAMI-SHIRO.
TAKE OFF YOUR SHIRT!
.....
CAN YOU STEP IN FOR ME?
I don't think I can handle this
S-SORRY, I SORTA WENT INTO A TRANCE ...
CONGRA-TULATIONS, YOU'VE RECOV-ERED!
.....
FINE! I'M LEAVING.
GYA HA HA HA HA
AHHHH, NO, WAIT, DON'T LEAVE...!!
I'll take it off!
THAT'S NOT IT!!!
HEY... DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S ACTING A LITTLE TOO PA-RENTAL ...
WH... AT?

OHHH!? F... FOR SOME REASON, HE SEEMS A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE.
Even though he's bigger, he seems more lean or something
Like an alien
I THOUGHT SO...!!

T-THOUGHT WHAT...?
AS YOUR MUSCLE ENLARGENS, YOUR BODY CHANGES... AND SO,
YOUR FORM COLLAPSES, AND IT BECOMES MORE DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO TRANSMIT POWER...
WHAT? BUT AS LONG AS YOU HAVE MUSCLES, PUNCHES AND POWER UPS JUST COME REGULARLY, RIGHT?
BUT IT'S DIFFICULT TO TRANSMIT THEM!!!
YOU HAVE TO CONCENTRATE ALL THE POWER COMING OUT OF DIFFERENT MUSCLES TOGETHER IN ONE POINT AND PUNCH IN AN INSTANT.
WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU CHAIN A BUNCH OF NORMAL CARS TOGETHER AND RUN THEM OFF SOME HYPER-POWERED ENGINE? IT BECOMES HARD TO CONTROL SUCH MASIVE POWER...
IT BECOMES HARDER TO CONTROL—
NOW THAT HE MENTIONS IT, I HAVE BEEN FEELING LIKE MY BODY HAS BEEN RUNNING OUT OF MY CONTROL—
SO IT'S BECAUSE I'VE BECOME MORE POWERFUL!!


GREATER POWER DOES BRING ALONG ADVANTAGES, BUT CONTROLLING IT AND TRANSFERRING IT TO ONE'S FISTS REQUIRES GREATER TRAINING!
AND OF COURSE, TECHNIQUE CAPABLE OF OPERATING THE CAR IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY!!
IN ORDER FOR THAT TO HAPPEN, IT'S NECESSARY TO EQUIP THE CAR WITH A HIGH-POWERED CLUTCH, SUSPENSION, CHASSIS, TIRES, ETC.
NO MATTER HOW GREAT AN ENGINE YOU PUT IN A CAR, IF IT DOESN'T POSSESS THE RIGHT MEANS TO TRANSFER SAID FORCE, THERE'S NO POINT.

OF COURSE HE HIMSELF SHOULD BE FEELING IT!! THE SHOCK TRANSFERRING THROUGH HIS WRISTS AND FISTS——
THIS FORCE IS SOMETHING THAT RIVALS EVEN THAT OF IZAWA'S.
SERIOUSLY!?


EH?
SO... HOW DO YOU FEEL?

DID YOU MAKE IT YOUR OWN?
DID YOU SWALLOW UP THAT GREAT POWER?

NOW I KNOW I CAN BE STRONG!
I CAN EVEN BE SOME HELP TO IZAWA-SAN!!
I DON'T UNDER-STAND... YET.
I DO FEEL DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE...
BUT,
H... HEY, YUU...
WHY DON'T YOU FORGET ABOUT ALL THAT?

SHIN-CHAN...
IZAWA-SAN WILL PROBABLY JUST TAKE CARE OF IT HIMSELF, ANYWAY... RIGHT!!?
THAT IZAWA-SAN IS THE ONE BEING TARGETED BY SETA, RIGHT!? YOU GOTTA STAY AWAY!!! IF YOU STICK YOUR NECK IN...
EVERYTHING WILL JUST REPEAT ALL OVER AGAIN! IT'LL NEEEEVER END!
YEAH, IF HE'S LUCKY.
WH-WHAT!?
KEN... DO...
YOU COULD CALL THIS A BAD MATCH-UP EVEN FOR IZAWA.
AND CONSIDERING YOSHII... I DON'T THINK THAT'S ALL HE HAS PLANNED.
THE GUY YOSHII'S CALLED IN TO HELP HIM THIS TIME IS A KENDO FIGHTER NAMED TAKA.

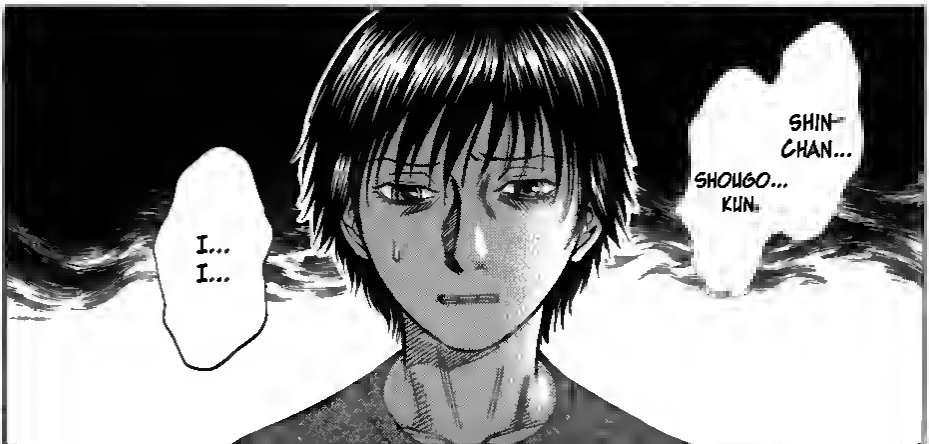
THERE'S A REASON THEY CALL KENDO THE "THREE-TIMING MARTIAL ART."* IT'S A FIGHTING TECHNIQUE BUILT ON BLADES, AFTER ALL!
THIS IS ON A TOTALLY DIFFERENT LEVEL FROM SOME THUG CARRYING A STICK OR BAT.
AWWW, C'MON! THIS IS IZAWA MASAKI WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HERE! KENDO, JUDO, KARATE, WHATEVER, IT'S NO PROBLEM TO HIM!
YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND, DO YOU?
Charisma... It's Charisma

*A SAYING STATING THAT KENDO POSESSES THREE TIMES THE POWER OF ANY OTHER MARTIAL ART

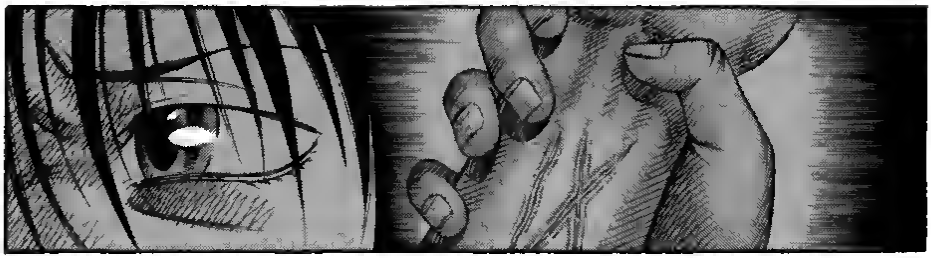
THE MOST DISTURBING THING I HEARD ABOUT THE WAY HE FIGHTS, IS THAT HE WAVES HIS WOODEN SWORD AROUND WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST HESITATION.
LIKE, EVEN SERIOUSLY MESSED UP PEOPLE HESITATE. BUT HE MIGHT ACTUALLY GO SO FAR AS TO KILL SOMEONE.
WHICH MEANS THAT, MOST LIKELY,
HE USES THE DAMAGE TAKEN FROM HIS OPPONENTS TO INFLUENCE HIS ATTACKS, GRINDING THEM INTO PULP!!!

WELL YOU CAN COUNT ME OUT.
WH-WHO KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN...
THEN THAT MEANS I REALLY HAVE TO HELP HIM...!! SETA IS DANGEROUS ENOUGH...

THIS WILL JUST HAVE THEM TARGET YOU AGAIN AND CAUSE MORE TROUBLE, YOU KNOW!?
YUU... IZAWA-SAN ISN'T ASKING FOR YOUR HELP, YOU KNOW?
I HAVE NO REASON TO HELP IZAWA. I'M NOT COMING.
The thought is ridiculous

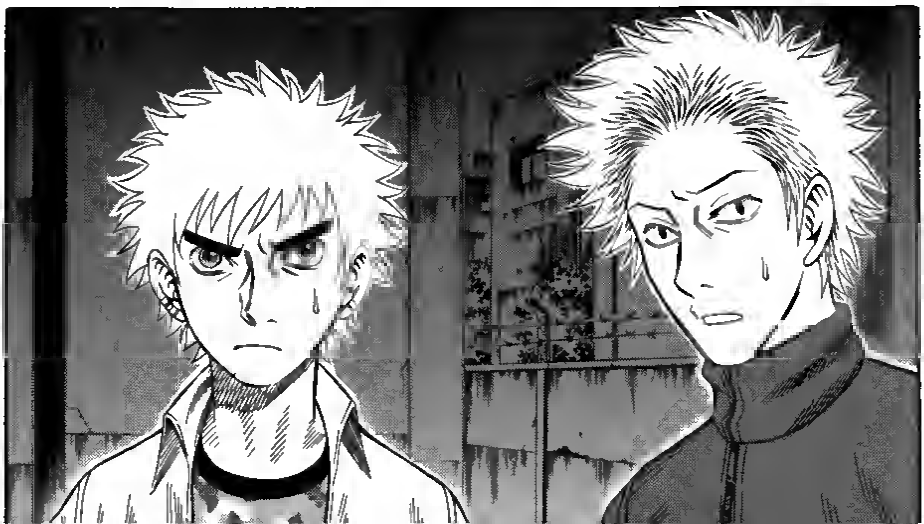

I... I...
SHIN-CHAN... SHOUGO... KUN.

I
CONTINUE FORWARD, OR DISAPPEAR FROM THIS TOWN.
DESPITE ALL THAT... I...
THERE ISN'T ANYONE ALIVE WHO DOESN'T BEAR SCARS...



AFTER... EVERYONE HELPED ME... I KNOW I'M...
JUST CAUSING MORE PROBLEMS... AND THAT THIS IS SELFISH... BUT...

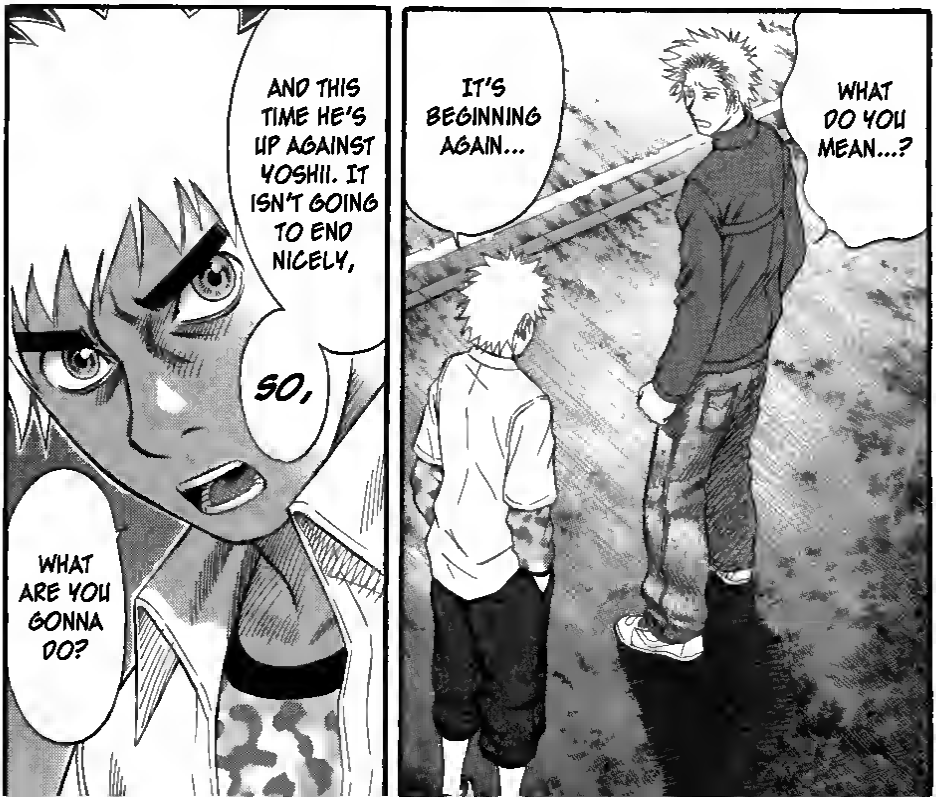
DESPITE ALL THAT, I WANT TO BE OF HELP!!!
WHETHER IT'S TO IZAWA-SAN,
OR SHIN-CHAN, OR SHOUGO-KUN!!!
Rider.



I KNOW I MIGHT BE THOUGHT OF AS NEEDLESS TROUBLE...
THE MEANING OF POWER LYING IN ONE'S FISTS...
AND SOMETHING HORRIBLE MIGHT END UP HAPPENING TO ME...
BUT IF I HAVE POWER, I WANT TO USE IT...
MY ANSWER IS— IZAWA-SAN!!

THANKS ...
SORRY... YOU TWO...
H-HEY, YUU...!

There he goes again...
HOW CAN YOU LET HIM GO LIKE THAT!?
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
LET HIM GO.
HEY, WAIT, YUU!
Rider


AND THIS TIME HE'S UP AGAINST YOSHII. IT ISN'T GOING TO END NICELY,
SO,
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
IT'S BEGINNING AGAIN...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?

WELL...
I GUESS I'M GOING TO FOLLOW HIM...
IT ALWAYS HAPPENS THIS WAY... I GUESS IT'S CAUSE WE'RE FRIENDS...
.....
...DON'T BLAME ME
IF YOU END UP IN A HOSPITAL.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO KEEP THAT FROM HAPPENING, BODYGUARD!!
D-DUMBASS!! I SAID I'M NOT GOING!!!
WHO'S YOUR BODYGUARD!?
YOU AREN'T LISTENING TO ME, ARE YOU!?
OH, REALLY? GREAT! THANKS, I'M COUNTING ON YOU!!

BUT THIS TIME
I'M ALWAYS SO SELFISH...!! EVERYONE...
I'M SORRY, SHIN-CHAN... I'M SORRY, SHOUGO-KUN...
hah
hah
hah
hah

FOR WHAT...

IZAWA-SAN... THIS ISN'T SYMPATHY,
OR EVEN REPAYING MY DEBT.
IT ISN'T EVEN DUE TO A FEELING OF JUSTICE!!!
hah
hah
hah
hah
hah

kah
kah
kah

THEN WHAT?
WHAT IS THIS TREMBLING FEELING!?
Rider

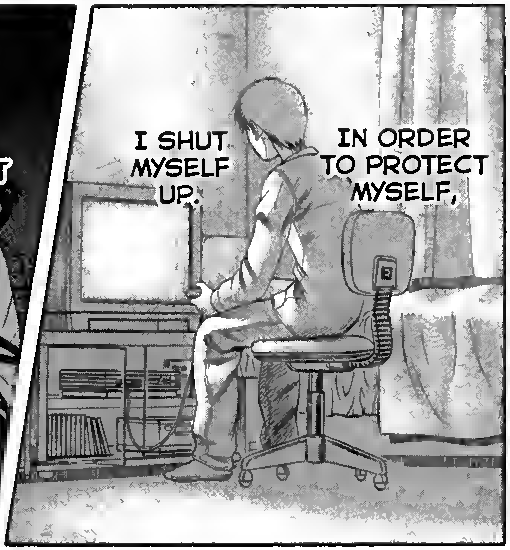
MY POWER...!!!
USING MY POWER FOR SOMEONE...

I CANNOT LOSE IT!

THEY'VE GIVEN ME MY HOLYLAND.
IZAWA-SAN... EVERY-ONE...
SHOUGO-KUN,
SHIN-CHAN,

HAVE ONLY THOUGHT ABOUT PROTECTING MYSELF.
UNTIL NOW, I...
FOR SOMEONE...

I LEARNED ABOUT VIOLENCE.
IN ORDER TO PROTECT MYSELF,


I SHUT MYSELF UP.
IN ORDER TO PROTECT MYSELF,

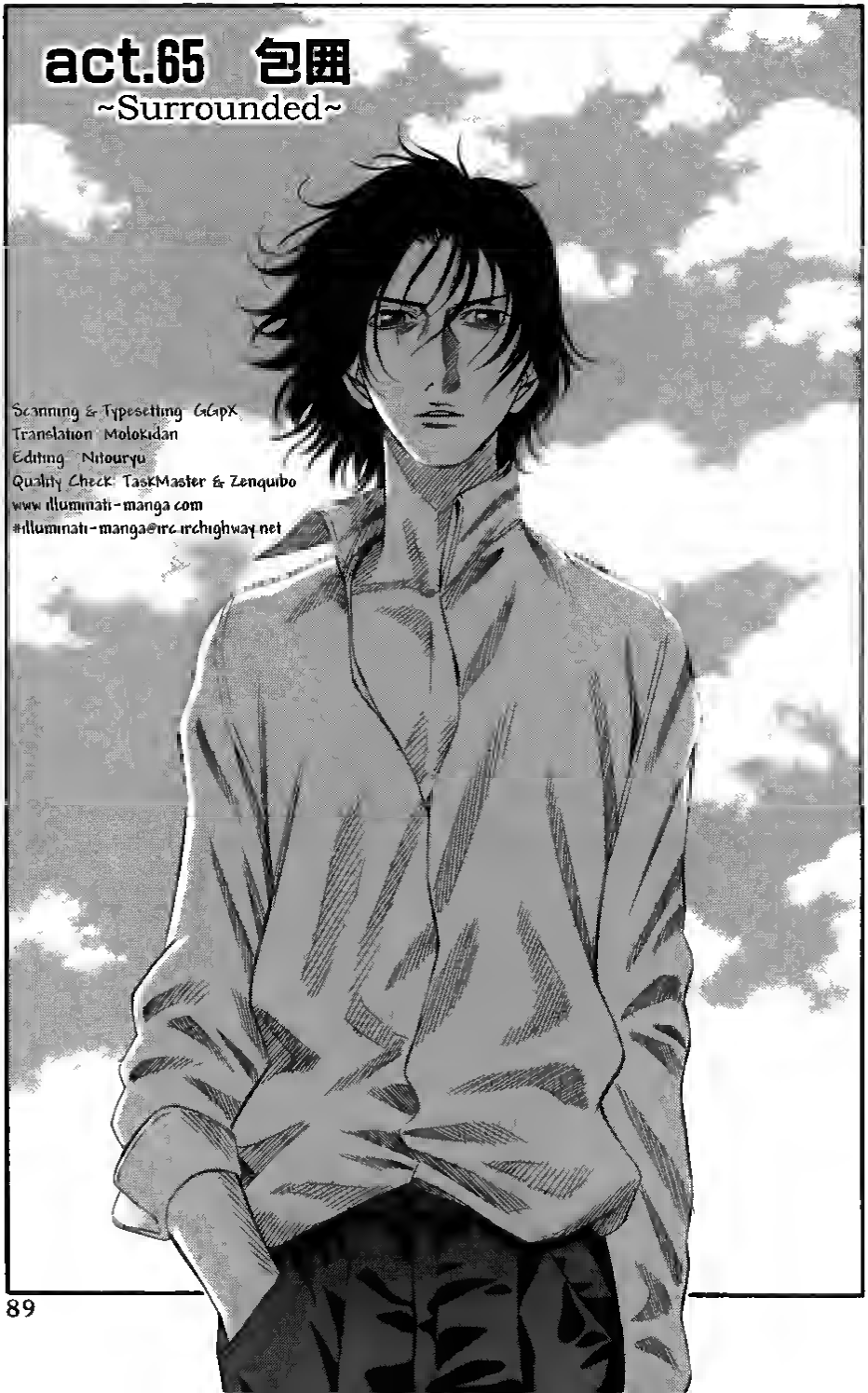
——NOW——

NOW,

IT'S TO PROTECT

MY HOLYLAND.

act.65 包囲
~Surrounded~



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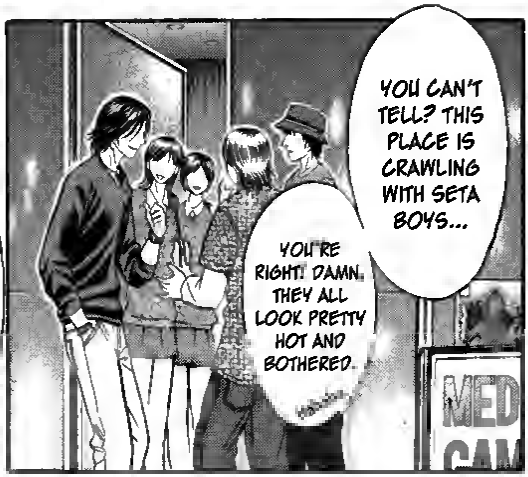
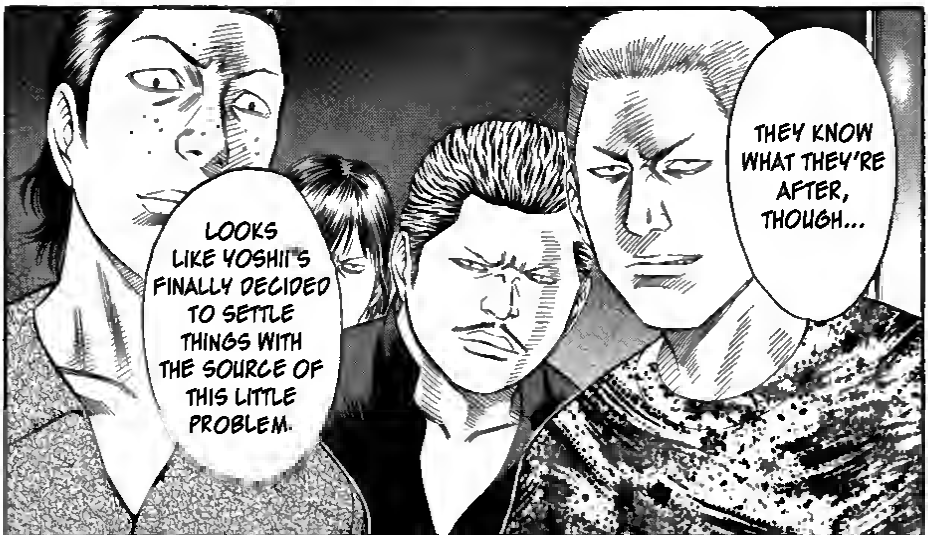
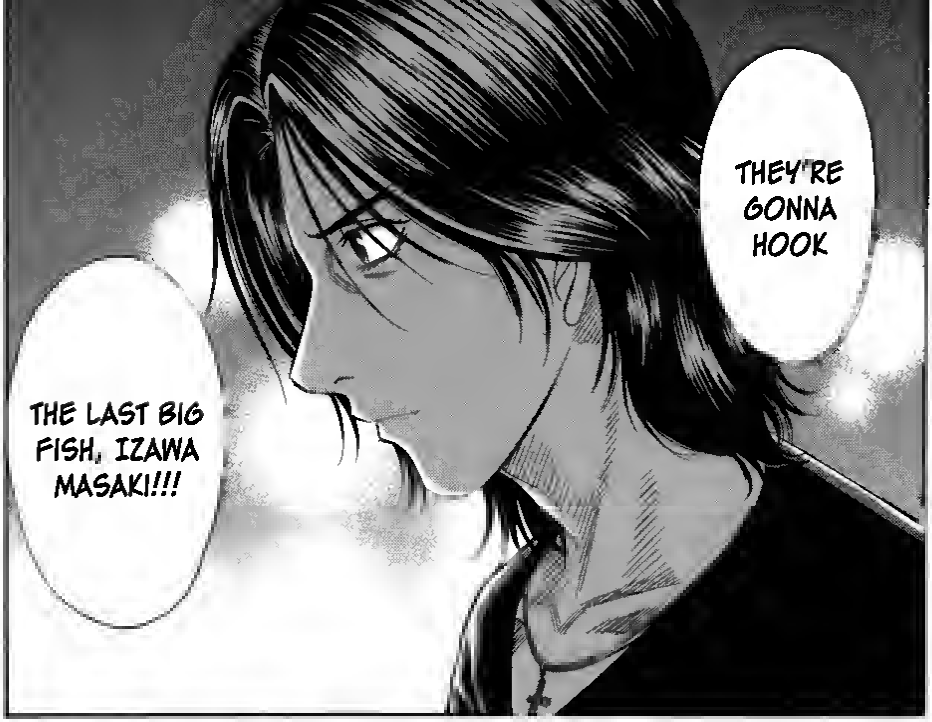
LOOKS LIKE IT'S ABOUT TO BEGIN...
WHAT IS?

THEY LOOK READY TO KILL. SO DON'T GET CLOSE TO 'EM.


YOU CAN'T TELL? THIS PLACE IS CRAWLING WITH SETA BOYS...
YOU'RE RIGHT! DAMN. THEY ALL LOOK PRETTY HOT AND BOTHERED.


THEY KNOW WHAT THEY'RE AFTER, THOUGH...
LOOKS LIKE YOSHII'S FINALLY DECIDED TO SETTLE THINGS WITH THE SOURCE OF THIS LITTLE PROBLEM.


THEY'RE GONNA HOOK
THE LAST BIG FISH, IZAWA MASAKI!!!!

THE CREEPY PART IS YOU DON'T KNOW HOW THEY'RE GONNA COME OUT.
YOU CAN FEEL THEIR PRESSURE, THOUGH...

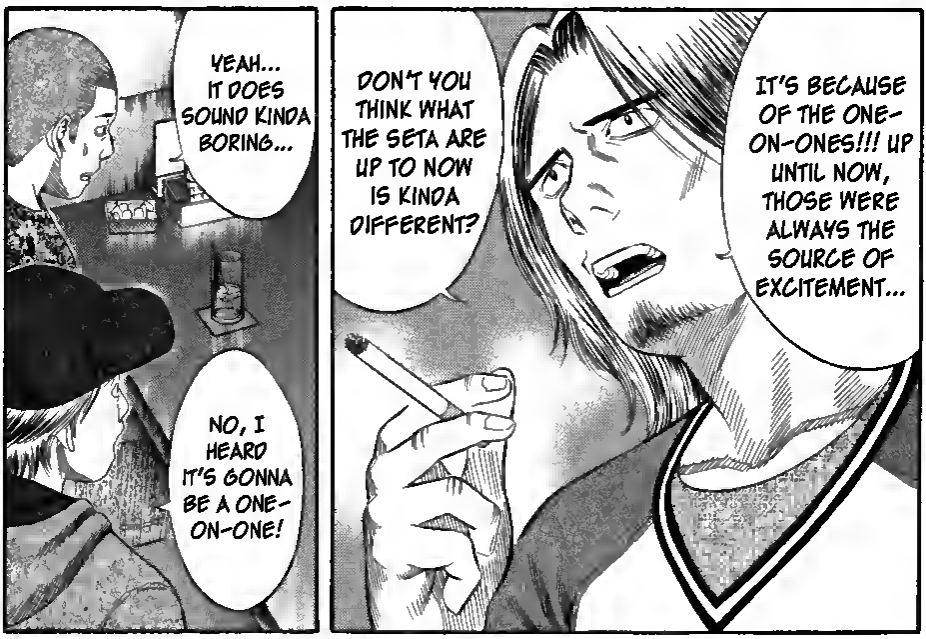
IS IT GONNA BE A FULL-SCALE WAR?

RIGHT, SO THEY'RE TRYING TO PUT THE PRESSURE ON HIM AND GET HIM ALONE... HE'S ALL THEY'RE AFTER, YOU KNOW.
THE SETA GUYS PROBABLY DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH PEOPLE LIKE THAT.
THEN IT'D HAVE ALREADY BEGUN... IZAWA'S GROUP IS FULL OF PART-TIMERS AND HIGH SCHOOLERS, RIGHT?
THEY WON'T TAKE THE STRAIGHT ROUTE... IT'S YOSHII'S DOING, AFTER ALL.
THEN IT'S JUST A MATTER OF HOW THEY SQUISH HIM...
ガシャ
カチャ
カチャ

FIRST IS A PSYCHOLOGICAL BATTLE... THEN THEY'LL GRADUALLY SURROUND HIM,
Good work tonight
Thanks
SLOWLY REDUCING HIS OPTIONS...

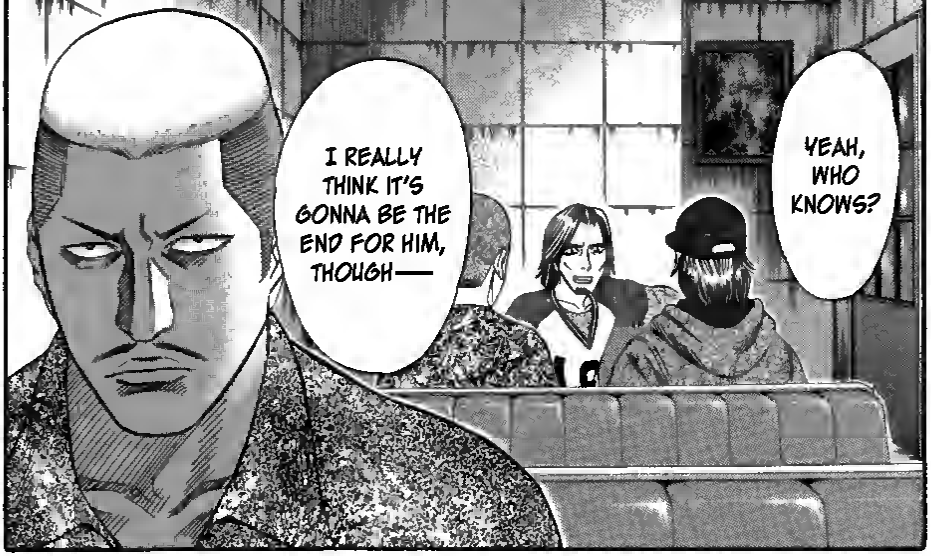
IZAWACIDE
You're dead!!
Kawasaki
FOLLOWED AROUND EVERY DAY...
NOT EVEN IZAWA CAN STAY CALM IN THAT KIND OF ENVIRONMENT...
HE'S REALLY GOTTA BE FEELING THE PRESSURE.

YEAH, SO WHAT?
EVER SINCE THE "THUG HUNTER" INCIDENT... THINGS HAVE REALLY HEATED UP, RIGHT?
WHAT DOES?
STILL FEELS KINDA LACKING TO ME, THOUGH...


YEAH... IT DOES SOUND KINDA BORING...
NO, I HEARD IT'S GONNA BE A ONE-ON-ONE!
DON'T YOU THINK WHAT THE SETA ARE UP TO NOW IS KINDA DIFFERENT?
IT'S BECAUSE OF THE ONE-ON-ONES!!! UP UNTIL NOW, THOSE WERE ALWAYS THE SOURCE OF EXCITEMENT...

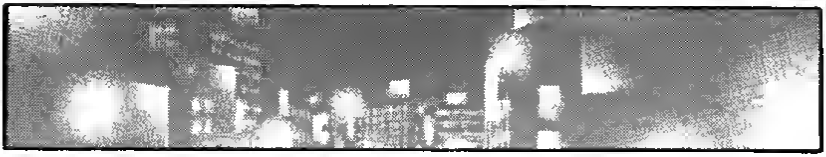
He heh!
SERI-OUSLY!?
APPARENTLY THIS KENDO GUY NAMED TAKA IS GONNA DO IT. I HEARD IT FROM A SETA FRIEND OF MINE, SO YOU KNOW IT'S NO LIE!

YEAH!! I REALLY WAHNA SEE IT!!
IT'S GONNA BE REALLY EXCI-TING!!
I WONDER.
TAKA, YOU MEAN THE GUY THAT'S BEEN FAMOUS SINCE WE WERE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL? THEY SAY HE'S KIND OF A WEIRDO AND DOESN'T GROUP WITH ANYONE, THOUGH...
IF HE GOES UP AGAINST IZAWA...
IT'S YOSHII, REMEMBER!? THERE'S NO WAY HE'S GONNA PLAY IT STRAIGHT!!
THE SETA GUYS ARE HARDLINERS. THEY MAY SAY IT'S A ONE-ON-ONE, BUT WHO KNOWS WHAT THE REAL DEAL IS...
I GUESS THIS REALLY IS THE END FOR IZAWA...
IZAWA MASAKI HAS ALWAYS GOTTEN HIMSELF OUT OF TOUGH SPOTS UP UNTIL NOW!!!
YOU NEVER KNOW!

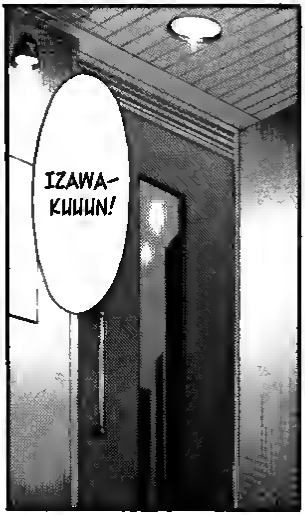

I REALLY THINK IT'S GONNA BE THE END FOR HIM, THOUGH——
YEAH, WHO KNOWS?

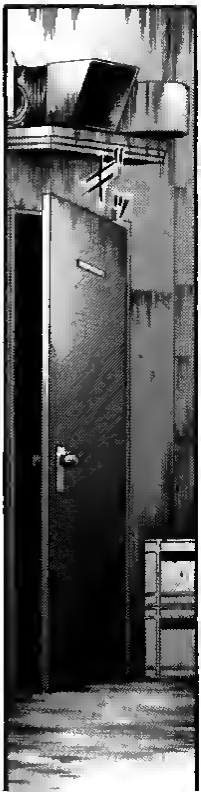
YEAH.
ON YOUR WAY HOME, TSUCHIYA-SENPAI?
Macho as usual~

THERE'S SOMEWHERE I NEED TO MAKE A STOP AT.



SEEMS LIKE A FRIEND OF YOURS IS AT THE BACK...
YES?


IZAWA-KUUUN!

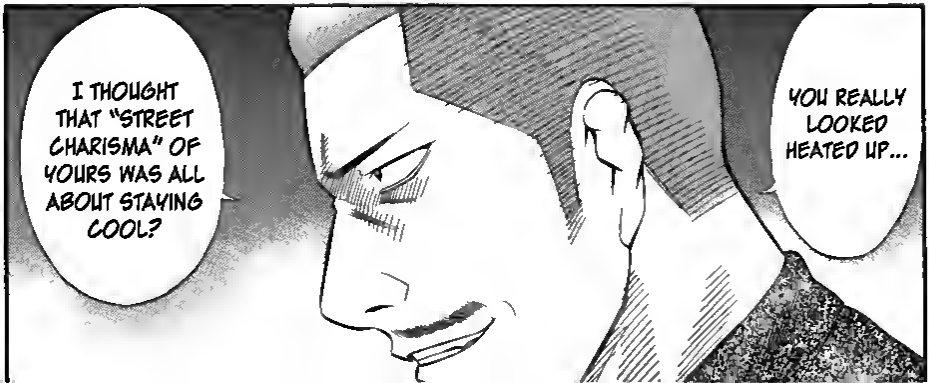


A FRIEND... HUH?
LET'S SEE...

CAN I GO ON A BREAK TO TAKE THE GARBAGE OUT?
SURE, BUT BE BACK IN FIFTEEN MINUTES.

STILL NOT DONE WITH WORK, HUH?
YO.
!
WHAT'LL...

I'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOSHII.
HEY, HEY, DON'T GET YOUR KILLER INSTINCT GOING ON ME.
I'LL GIVE YOU TEN MINUTES, BUT THAT'S IT.
WHAT A SURPRISE... I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D BE WORKING WITH YOSHII...


I THOUGHT THAT "STREET CHARISMA" OF YOURS WAS ALL ABOUT STAYING COOL?
YOU REALLY LOOKED HEATED UP...

NOTHING... NOTHING AT ALL!
THAT'S JUST WHAT YOSHII WANTS... WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
SHUT UP. WHAT DO YOU WANT, ANYWAY?
SURPRISINGLY CHILDISH.
I'M NOT TRYING TO START AN ARGUMENT HERE... JUST AN OBSERVATION, ALRIGHT? HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS...
WHAT!?

US THUGS ARE ALL THE SAME...
FIGHTING AND WARRING ...
PETTY CRIME... FINALLY ENDING UP AS DROPOUTS, IN JUVIE, OR EVEN JAIL...

MAYBE THAT'S WHY YOU CAN ATTRACT SO MANY PEOPLE TO YOURSELF.
YOUR UNIQUE DISPOSI-TION——

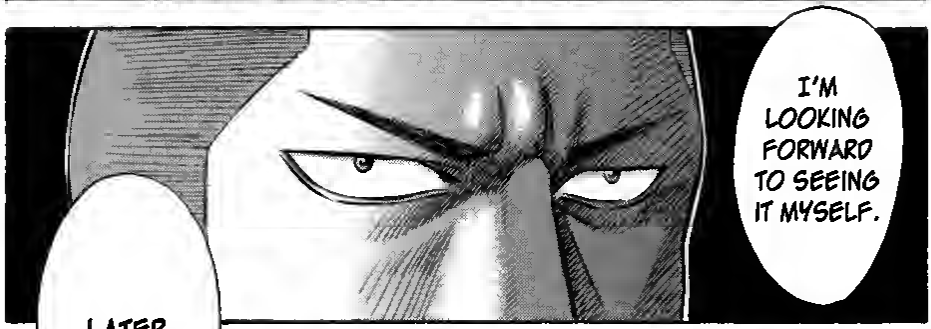
BUT WE GET TO DO WHATEVER WE WANT, SO THAT'S THE PAYOFF, RIGHT?
SOMETIMES EVEN WE GET FED-UP THOUGH, RIGHT?

"IZAWA'S DIFFERENT!"
"IZAWA MASAKI CAN SHOW US SOMETHING NEW!!"

YOU'RE RESPECTED AND REVERED BY SOME... LIKE KAMISHIRO.
THAT'S WHY EVERYONE'S GOT THEIR EYES ON YOU... EYES OF ANIMOSITY AND EYES OF HONOR.
I'M NO DIFFERENT FROM ANYONE ELSE...
I'M JUST A THUG!
THAT'S JUST...
A RESULT OF HIS OWN WRONG AS-SUMPTION...

TCH!
SEEMS MORE HUMAN, AND THAT'S MORE TO MY TASTE.
クックックッ
DEPRESSED, HUH? NOT LIKE YOU... I LIKE IT.
BUT YOU KNOW... YOU CAN'T THROW IZAWA MASAKI AWAY.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BROUGHT KAMISHIRO OVER TO THIS SIDE, AFTER ALL.

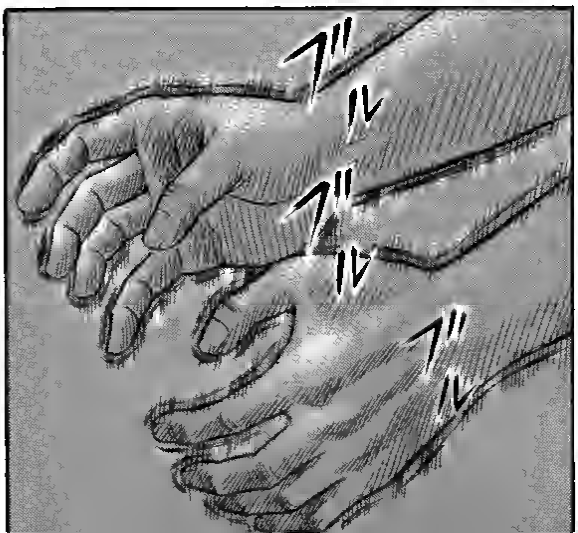
SHOW IZAWA MASAKI TO THEM.
TO YOSHII, TO EVERYONE... AND TO KAMISHIRO.


I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING IT MYSELF.

LATER.

Completely targeted... this is dangerous...
Noboru's too scared to even show himself...

The reason I'm in this town is——
Izawa Masaki...
Show them....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IT'S FINE... I CAN DO THIS...
I WILL FINISH THIS—!!

act.66 不良
~Thugs~

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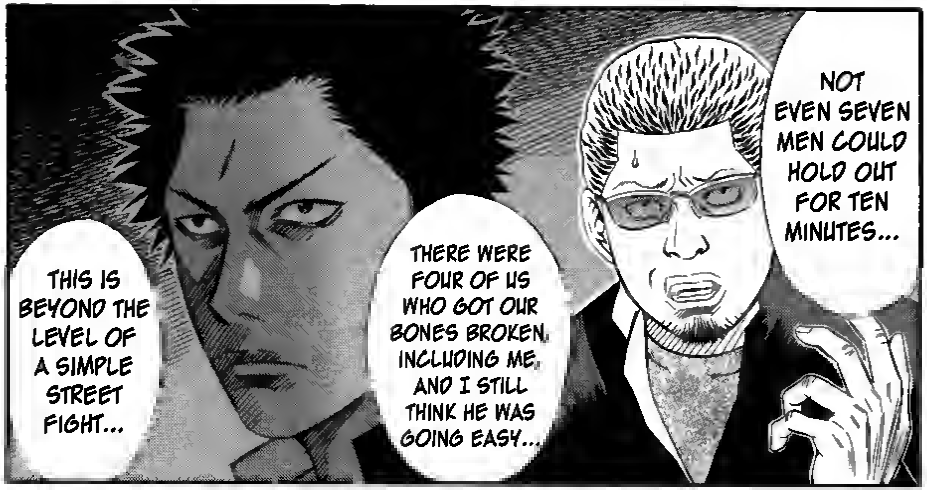
HE'S CRAZY... LIKE NOTHING I'VE EVER SEEN BEFORE.

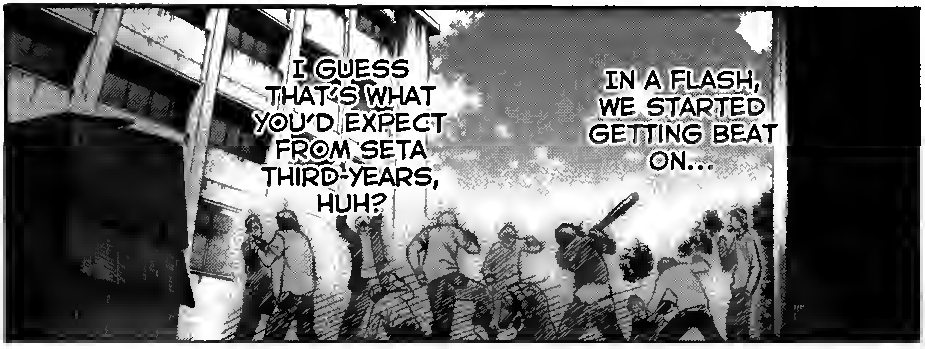

NOT EVEN SEVEN MEN COULD HOLD OUT FOR TEN MINUTES...
THERE WERE FOUR OF US WHO GOT OUR BONES BROKEN, INCLUDING ME. AND I STILL THINK HE WAS GOING EASY...
THIS IS BEYOND THE LEVEL OF A SIMPLE STREET FIGHT...

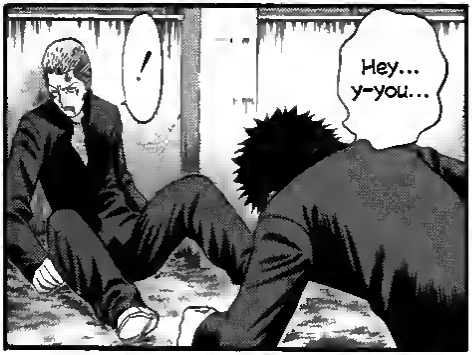
I AC- KNOWLEDGE HIS POWER. IT'S JUST AS YOU SAID...
TAKA IS THE STRONGEST!

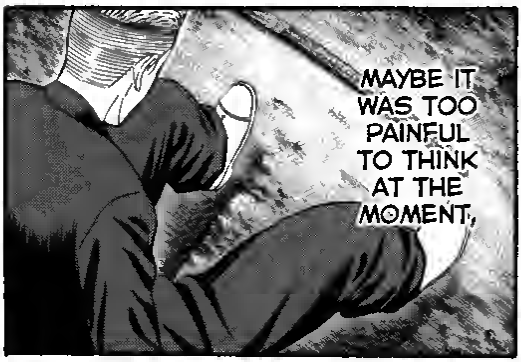
I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED... BUT AFTER THAT, THERE'S NO DOUBT LEFT IN MY HEART.
I WILL FOLLOW YOUR EVERY ORDER.
HE OWES ME.
HOW DID YOU FIND SOMEONE LIKE THAT?
.....
.....
IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT.
MONEY...? DID YOU CHEAT AT MAHJONG LIKE YOU DID WITH IWADO...?
IT HAPPENED WHEN I WAS A SECOND YEAR...
THE FACT THAT HE STILL FEELS INDEBTED TO ME SHOWS THAT HE'S A TRUE DIEHARD, I GUESS.

ANYWAY, IT ENDED UP THAT I WAS TO BE BEAT UP WITH THE FIRST-YEARS.
AT THE TIME, I WAS STILL AN OUTCAST AND PROBABLY JUST LOOKED ON AS A SMALL FRY.
THE THIRD YEARS DECIDED TO CALL OUT ALL THE "RUDE" FIRST-YEARS WHO STILL HAD YET TO GIVE THEIR PROPER INTRODUCTIONS TO THEIR SENIORS.

The third-years... what a school!







*A cheap, brittle wood used in making wooden swords (bokken)

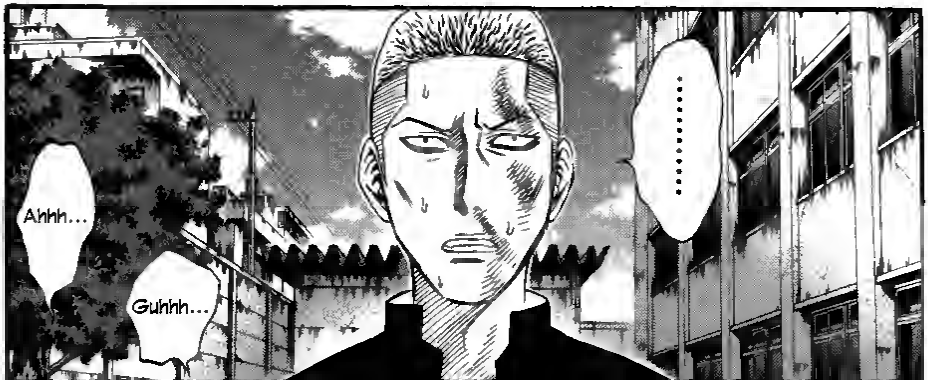
ONCE THAT GUY PICKED UP THE SWORD,
HE BECAME A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON.

Ready?
I'm serious now!
HE RAN TOWARDS THE THIRD-YEARS, WHO WERE TAKING A BREATHER,
GYAAAH
AND IN AN INSTANT,
BEAT THEM ALL DOWN.
WHOA
GAAAH
LWAAAAH

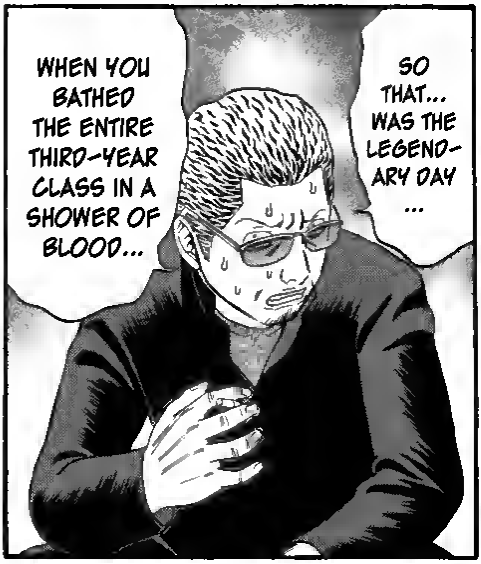
This is your fault.
Now don't come near me again...
I GUESS IT WOULD BE MORE CORRECT TO SAY HE CUT THEM ALL DOWN.
AFTERWARDS, THE MOANS OF GUYS WITH THEIR HEADS SPLIT OPEN AND ARMS BROKEN COULD BE HEARD...

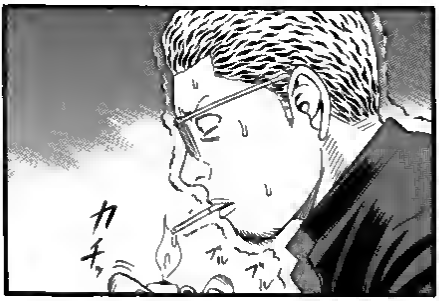
I'm Taka...
Yoshii... I'm a second-year.
That isn't mine...
Eh?
Oh yeah... here...
Oh... Really?

Senpai.
Well then, see ya.


Ahhh...
Guhhh...
.....

IT'S NOW OR NEVER.
THAT'S WHEN I DECIDED ...
O- oww...
Uuu ...
Shit ...
AND GRASP SETA WITHIN MY HANDS.
IT WAS TIME TO GET OUT OF THIS HUMILIATING POSITION
What ...!!
S... stop it, man...!


WHEN YOU BATHED THE ENTIRE THIRD-YEAR CLASS IN A SHOWER OF BLOOD...
SO THAT... WAS THE LEGEND-ARY DAY ...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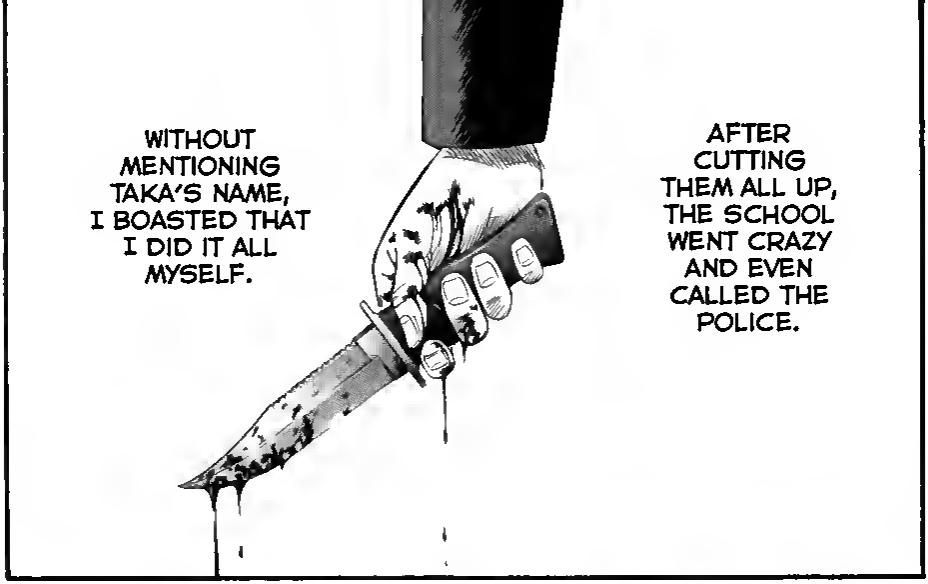
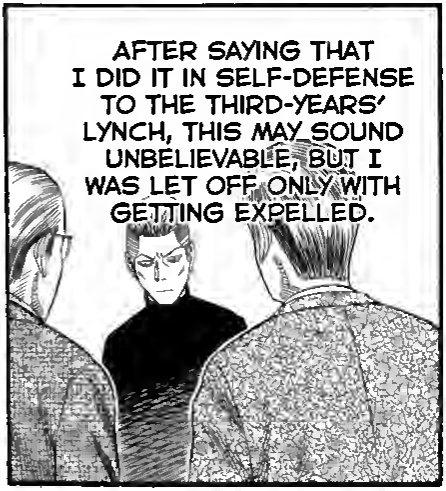
IT'S ALL TRUE. GOT A PROBLEM?
YEAH, THAT WAS IT.


WITHOUT MENTIONING TAKA'S NAME, I BOASTED THAT I DID IT ALL MYSELF.
AFTER CUTTING THEM ALL UP, THE SCHOOL WENT CRAZY AND EVEN CALLED THE POLICE.

AFTER HEARING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED, TAKA CAME TO APOLOGIZE TO ME...
ALL I DID WAS THANK HIM.
ㅠㅠㅠㅠㅠ


AFTER SAYING THAT I DID IT IN SELF-DEFENSE TO THE THIRD-YEARS' LYNCH, THIS MAY SOUND UNBELIEVABLE, BUT I WAS LET OFF ONLY WITH GETTING EXPELLED.

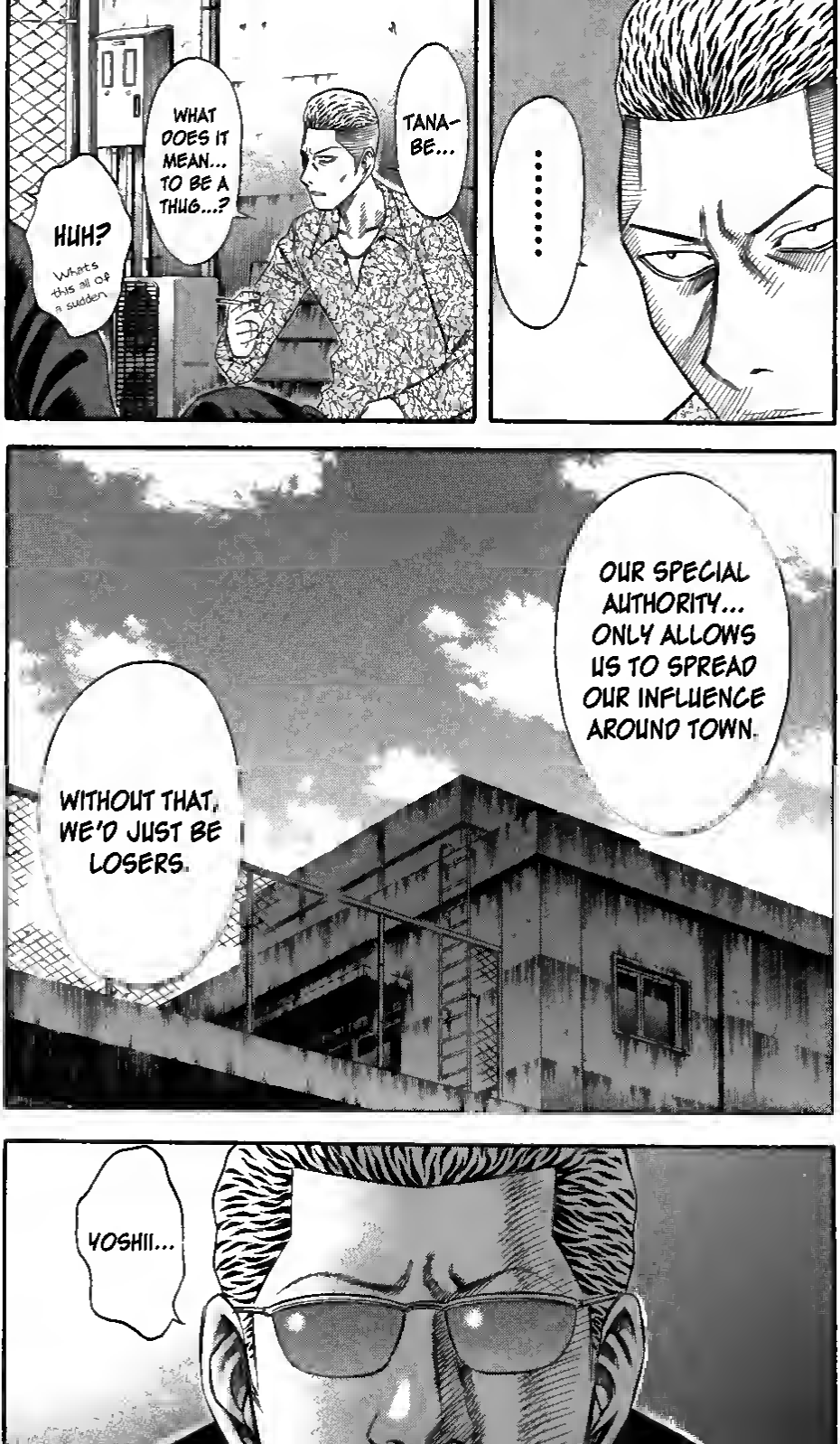
LIKE I PLANNED, THE ENTIRE SETA HIGH SCHOOL FELL INTO MY HANDS!!
AND YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED AFTERWARDS, RIGHT?

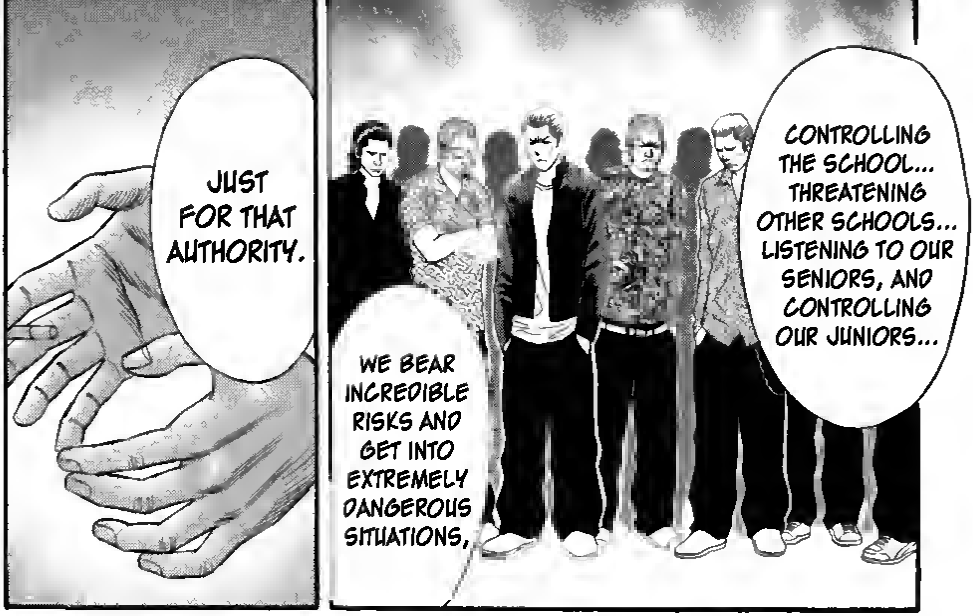
I HOPE SO...
IF HE'S YOUR ASSASSIN, THEN IZAWA IS DEAD MEAT.
YOSHII... YOU WIN. COMPLETELY.
SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED... YEAH, I GUESS TAKA WON'T TURN AGAINST YOU, HUH...

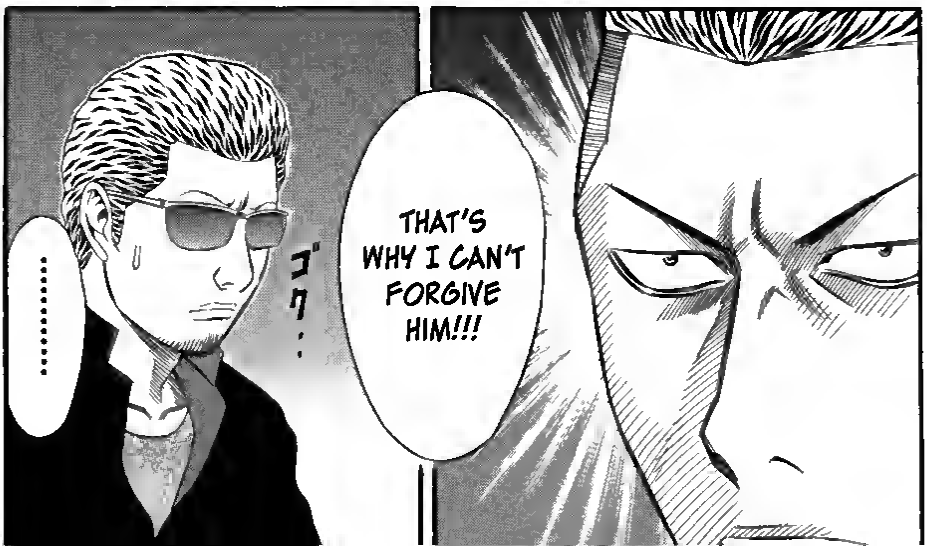
NO ONE KNOWS IZAWA'S TRUE POTENTIAL.
HE SAID HE'D WIN... BUT IF IT ISN'T A FULL VICTORY, THEN THERE'S NO POINT.

YOSHI... I... WHY ARE YOU SO...

I WON'T FORGIVE A HALF-ASSED JOB, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.
AND MY GOAL IS TO COMPLETELY SHAVE AWAY ALL OF HIS REP AND STATUS!!


TANA-BE...
WHAT DOES IT MEAN... TO BE A THUG...?
HUH?
What's this all of a sudden
.....
OUR SPECIAL AUTHORITY... ONLY ALLOWS US TO SPREAD OUR INFLUENCE AROUND TOWN.
WITHOUT THAT, WE'D JUST BE LOSERS.
YOSHII...


JUST FOR THAT AUTHORITY.
WE BEAR INCREDIBLE RISKS AND GET INTO EXTREMELY DANGEROUS SITUATIONS,
CONTROLLING THE SCHOOL... THREATENING OTHER SCHOOLS... LISTENING TO OUR SENIORS, AND CONTROLLING OUR JUNIORS...


……
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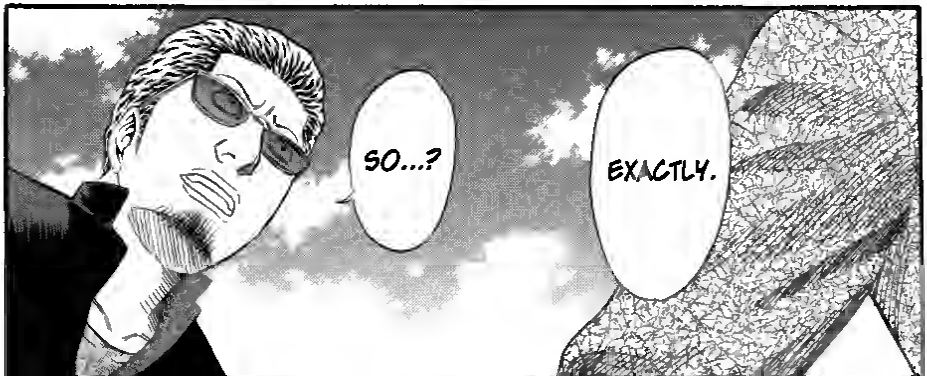
THAT'S WHY I CAN'T FORGIVE HIM!!!

HE CAN DO WHATEVER THE FUCK HE WANTS ON HIS OWN TIME.
BUT I DON'T WANT HIM INTERFERING IN MY SHIT!!
EVER SINCE HE'S STUCK HIS HEAD IN HERE, MY REP HAS DROPPED UNBELIEVABLY!!!

AND SO YOU'VE GOT TO THINKING... AFTER SUFFERING THIS MUCH, MAYBE YOU HAVEN'T SET UP ENOUGH FOR HIM.

RECENTLY BECAUSE OF HIM, I'VE BEEN GETTING YELLED AT FROM ABOVE AND CONSPIRED AT FROM BELOW... AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF, THAT BASTARD'S LOOKING DOWN ON ME!


SO...?
EXACTLY.

ARE YOU THINKING OF DOING SOMETHING... ASIDE FROM THE ONE-ON-ONE WITH TAKA?
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
GOOD, THAT SPEEDS THINGS UP...
BEFORE I CALL HIM OUT, I WANT YOU TO WOUND HIM.
WOUND IZAWA!? BUT THAT'S...
I'LL GIVE YOU SOME OF MY PRIVATE SOLDIERS... THEY'RE DROPOUTS, SO THEY CAN HOLD THEIR OWN.
EVEN IF YOU DON'T WIN, ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS MAKE SURE HE'S WOUNDED.
WILL HE COME, THOUGH... IF HE'S WOUNDED... EVEN IF IT IS FOR HIS FRIEND...
HE'LL COME...
I KNOW HE WILL!

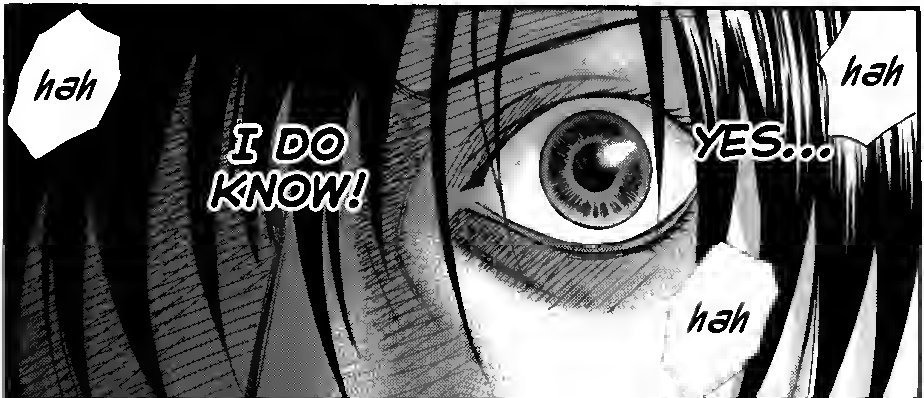
THAT'S WHY I ABSOLUTELY HATE...
FUCKERS LIKE IZAWA MASAKI!!

BY THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE TOWN, EVEN I COULO TELL THAT IZAWA-SAN WAS GETTING GRAOUALLY ISOLATEO.
AT DARK, I KEPT GOING OUT... LOOKING FOR HIM.

THEN I'D COME HOME LATE AT NIGHT
AND STUDY ABOUT KENDO...
That Taka guy is a kendo fighter...
Yoshii...
is a very vindictive man.
I KNOW... THAT WHAT I'M DOING HAS NO PURPOSE
THERE'S NO WAY IZAWA-SAN WOULD LOSE TO THAT MAN

LEGS SHOULD BE ABLE TO COME BACK FASTER THAN BATS OR METAL PIPES...
I END UP IMAGINING SO MUCH, AND MY BODY JUST HAS TO MOVE!!
MAYBE HE CAN AIM FOR WHEN THE GUY PULLS BACK...
IF HE CONCENTRATES TOO MUCH ON CUTTING THE DISTANCE HE'LL LOSE!
HE'S OUT OF LUCK IN DISTANCE AND SPEED...
BUT AS I KEEP THINKING,
BUT KICKS... KICK'S MIGHT BE ABLE TO CONNECT!

You should know about exhiliration.
You're another person on this side who's trying to test themselves...


hah
I DO KNOW!
YES...
hah
hah

THIS IS IT...!!!
MY BODY AND HEART
ARE SEARCH-ING FOR A PLACE TO FIGHT!
THIS HAS TO BE IT!!!

act.67 謀略
~Tactics~

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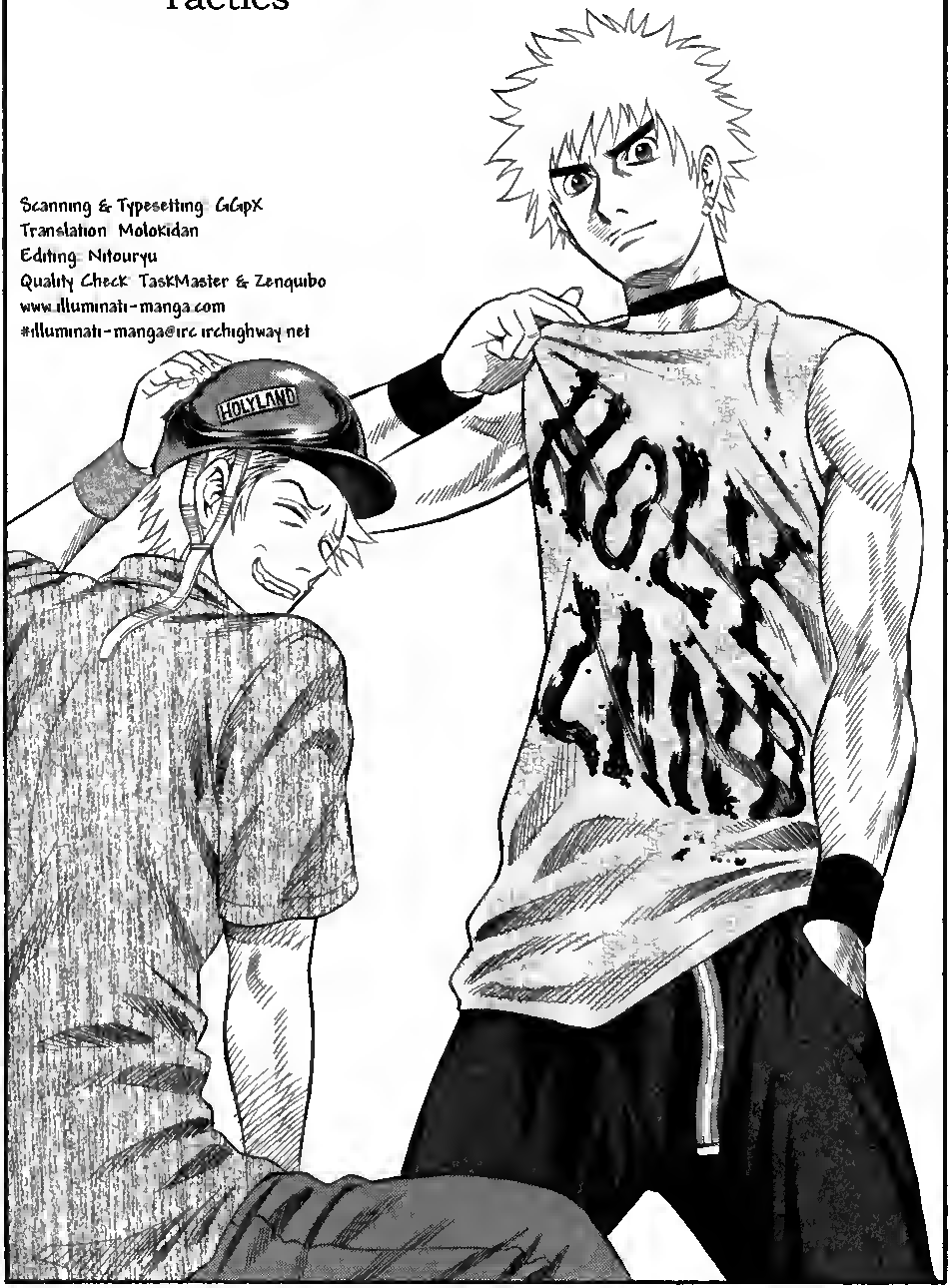
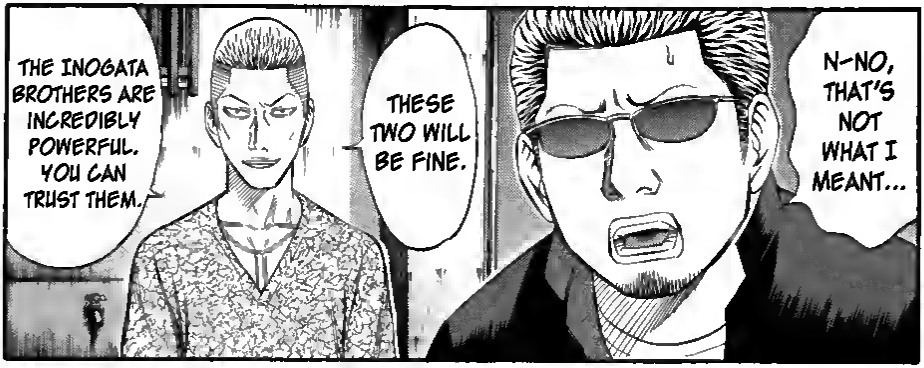


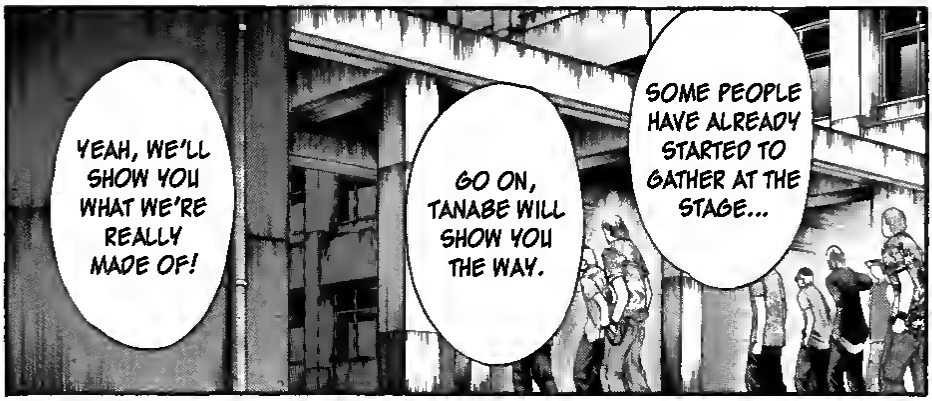
SO WE JUST CAN'T FINISH HIM OFF, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT... BE CAREFUL.
SO I WANT YOU TO AVOID WOUNDING HIM IN EASY TO SEE PLACES...
GIVE HIM A FEW INVISIBLE HANDICAPS.
KUKUKU... THAT SOUNDS DIFFICULT... YOU SHOULD HAVE LET US HANDLE THIS FROM THE BEGINNING.
AT THE VERY LEAST, WE HAVE TO HAVE THE SHOWDOWN BE HIM VS TAKA.
SURROUNDED BY A BUNCH OF WIT-NESSES, THAT IS!!
Y... YOSHII...
ARE YOU SURE ONLY THESE TWO WILL BE OK?
HEY, HEY!

SEEMS LIKE YOU NEVER HEARD O' DA INOGATA BROTHERS BEFORE!
IF YOU GOT SOME WORRIES, THEN WHY DON'T YOU TRY US ON FOR SIZE!?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT, ALL BY YOUR-SELF!!!

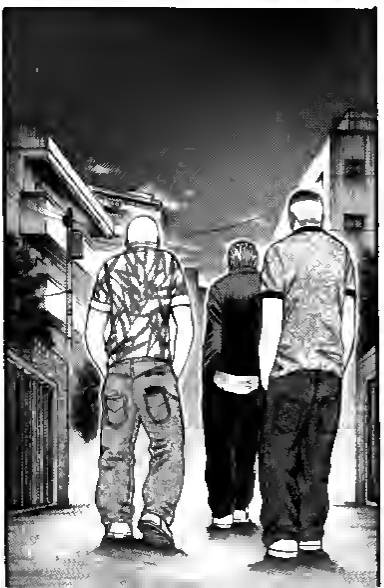

N-NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...
THESE TWO WILL BE FINE.
THE INOGATA BROTHERS ARE INCREDIBLY POWERFUL. YOU CAN TRUST THEM.

THE REAL WORRY IS WHETHER OR NOT THEY'LL OVERDO IT...
...RIGHT?

DAS RIGHT, YOU GOT IT! AS LONG AS WE GETS WHAT WE WANT, CONSIDER DA JOB FINISHED!
JUST SIT BACK AND WAIT!


SOME PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY STARTED TO GATHER AT THE STAGE...
GO ON, TANABE WILL SHOW YOU THE WAY.
YEAH, WE'LL SHOW YOU WHAT WE'RE REALLY MADE OF!

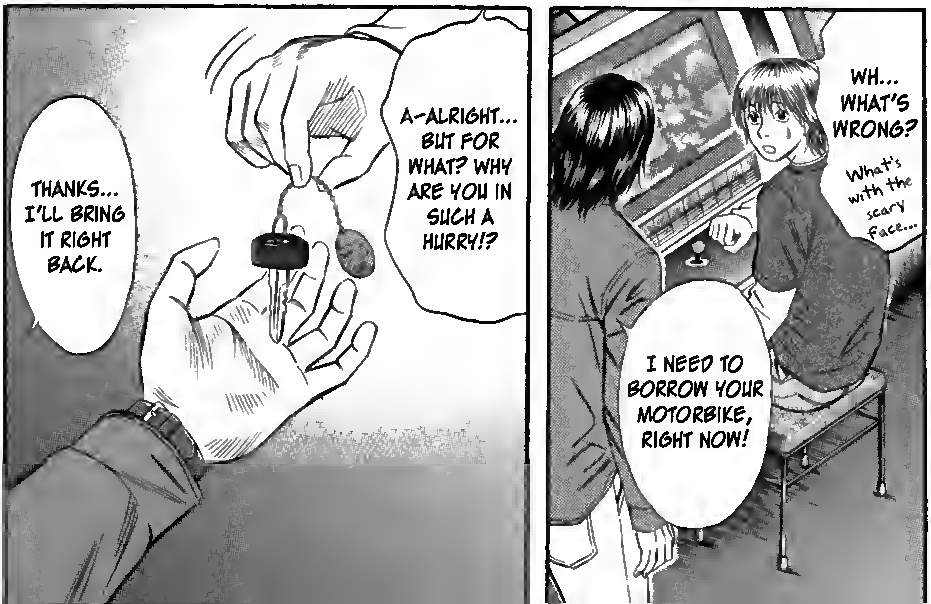
NOW...



WHAT ARE YOU HESITATING FOR ALL OF A SUDDEN?
HURRY UP AND CALL HIM OUT!! CALL YOUR FRIEND OUT HERE!!!
TIME TO GET STARTED!
Y-YEAH ...
MASAKI... I...
PLEASE HAVE MERCY ON ME, MASAKIIII~

hah
hah
hah
hah

YOSUKE! YOSUKE, ARE YOU HERE!?


WH... WHAT'S WRONG?
What's with the scary face...
I NEED TO BORROW YOUR MOTORBIKE, RIGHT NOW!
A-ALRIGHT... BUT FOR WHAT? WHY ARE YOU IN SUCH A HURRY!?
THANKS... I'LL BRING IT RIGHT BACK.

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!!
HEY! AT LEAST PUT ON A HELMET!
You'll get arrested!
COULD IT BE HIM!?
DOESN'T HE HAVE TO GO TO WORK?
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT...
!
YEAH! JUST NOW.
YOU JUST... MET HIM?

OH YEAH! DOES THAT SHIH GUY KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TOWN!?
IF YOSHII REALLY HAS MOVED, THEN THERE SHOULD BE A BIG CROWD SOME-WHERE!
YEAH, THAT'S WHY IT WAS REALLY STRANGE WHY HE WAS IN SUCH A HURRY...
WH-WHAT COULD BE GOING ON...? THERE'S STILL TIME UNTIL HE HAS TO GO TO WORK...
DAMMIT, NOBORU ISN'T ANSWER-ING...
AH, SHIN-CHAN!
THERE AREN'T ANY SETA IN SHIMOKITA... AND HARDLY ANY THUGS AROUND.
SOME-THING'S...
GONNA START...
IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING'S ABOUT TO START!
OH! YUU? I WAS JUST ABOUT TO CALL YOU!

HIGH...!?
SETA...
IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE'S GATHERING IN SETA HIGH ITSELF!
HEY, IS MASAKI-SAN WITH YOU!? ...HEY!? YUU!?
ALRIGHT! I'LL BRING ALONG SHOUGO SOMEHOW AND...
MASAKI... SAN JUST... LEFT...
TALK TO YOSUKE-SAN AND AT LEAST WAIT FOR ME!!! GOT IT!? HEY!!
HEY, YUU!! DON'T THINK OF RUNNING IN THERE ALL BY YOURSELF!!

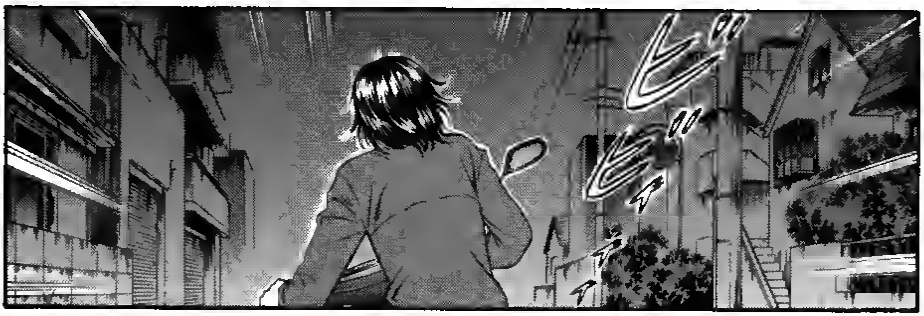
KAMI-SHIRO, I OVER-HEARD.
IT'S JUST LIKE SHIN SAYS. GOING IN THERE ALONE IS SUICIDE! YOU SHOULD AT LEAST WAIT UNTIL EVERYONE GETS HERE!!
REACH
SHIN-CHAN.
YOU SHOULD-N'T... COME.
HEY! WAIT, KAMISHIRO!
KAMI-SHIRO!!
REACH

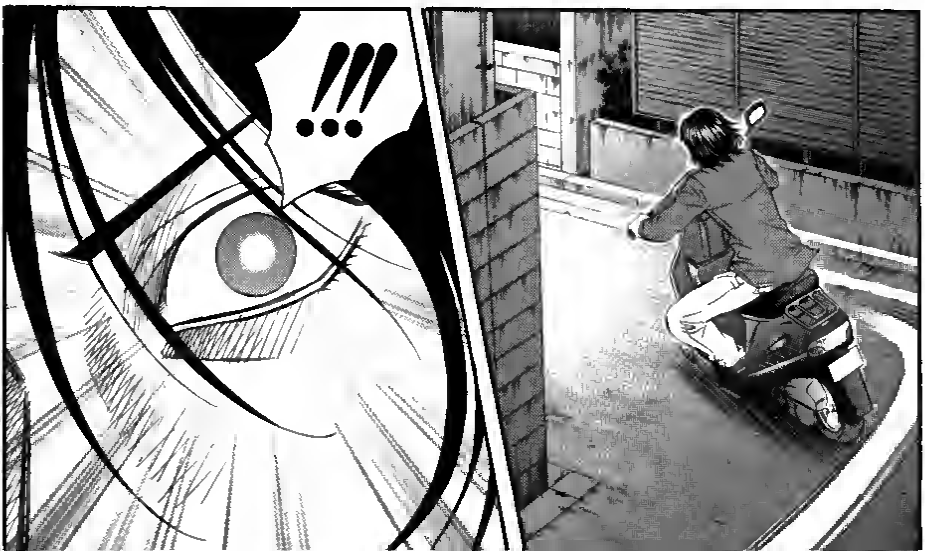
ヒュヒュヒュ
キュキュ

I'm sorry... Masaki, they got me...
Noboru! Are you okay!?
For now... but they're holding me as a hostage... it doesn't seem... like they'll let me go...

I'll be right there!! Where are you!?
Seta High... behind the north building... Yoshii wants you to fight a one-on-one... agh!
Noboru!?
It's Yoshii...

Yoshii...!
No complaints, right?
Time to test those "rules of the street" you love... you up against one of mine, one-on-one.
If you don't come, then Noboru's gonna have a little "accident."




!!!

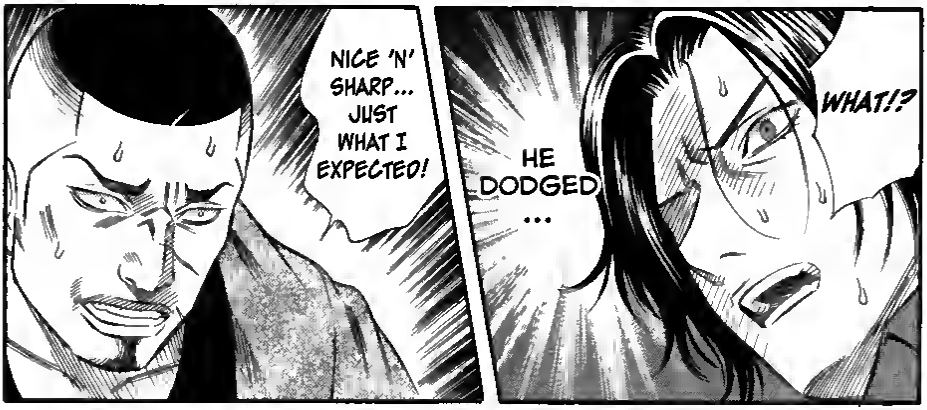
WHAT... ARE YOU...

I AIN'T DOIN' SHIT, AM I! YER DA ONE WHO'S VIOLATIN' TRAFFIC LAWS... WHERE'S YO' HELMET!?

ARE YA!? IZAWA MASAKI!?
LOOKS LIKE YER IN A HURRY...

LET'S PLAY A LITTLE...
C'MON NOW, DON' SAY DAT... STAY AND RELAX A WHILE!
BAS-TARD...
I'M IN A HURRY. SORRY, BUT PLEASE LET ME PASS.
SO THAT'S IT...

FINE...
THIS CAN'T WAIT...?
NOPE, SORRY. DON'T HATE ME, AWRIGHT?

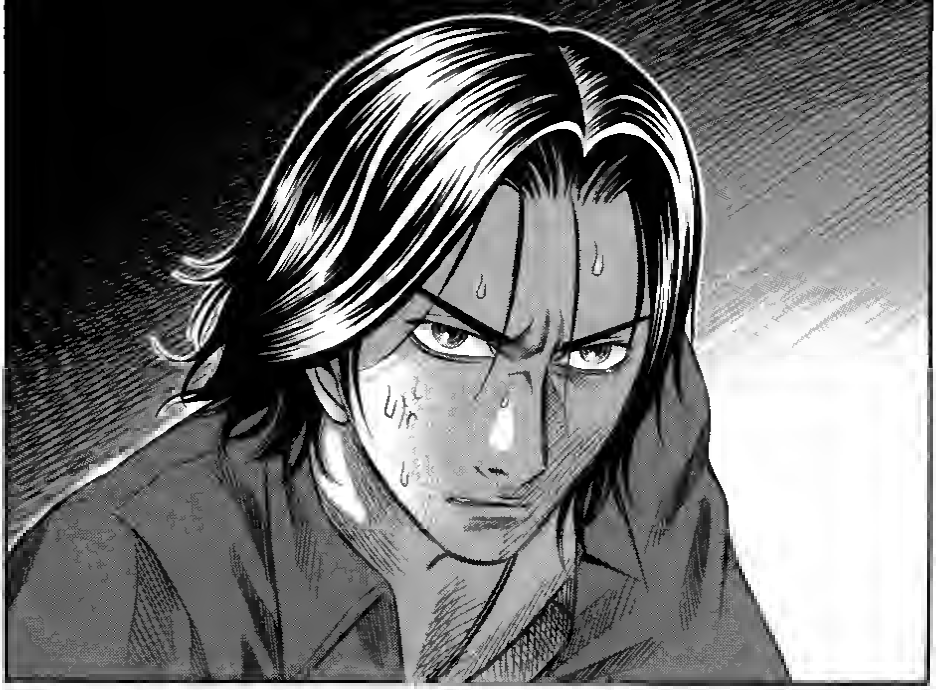

NICE 'N' SHARP... JUST WHAT I EXPECTED!
HE DODGED ...
WHAT!?

ORAHHHHH!!

GUOHHH!
OSSSHA AAAH!!!
JUST MADE IT!!
OR WERE YOU TOO BUSY WORRYING ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE?
YOU FELL RIGHT INTO THAT, PAL!

MAYBE WE OVERDID IT A BIT?
MR. CHARISMA'S MORE BRITTLE THAN I THOUGHT!
NAH, WE SHOULD GIVE 'IM ONE MORE JUST TA BE SURE...
DAMMIT...!
GUUH...

THIS TIME LET ME DO 'IM.
OKAY.



C'MOOOON, THIS WAY!

I AM NOT GOING!!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I SAID I'M NOT GOING!
YOU'RE LATE! WHAT WERE YOU DOING!?

DUMBASS... JUST GET ON!!
AND YET YOU'RE HERE.
Just be honest...

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Scanning & Typesetting: GGpX
Translation: [illegible]
Editing: [illegible]
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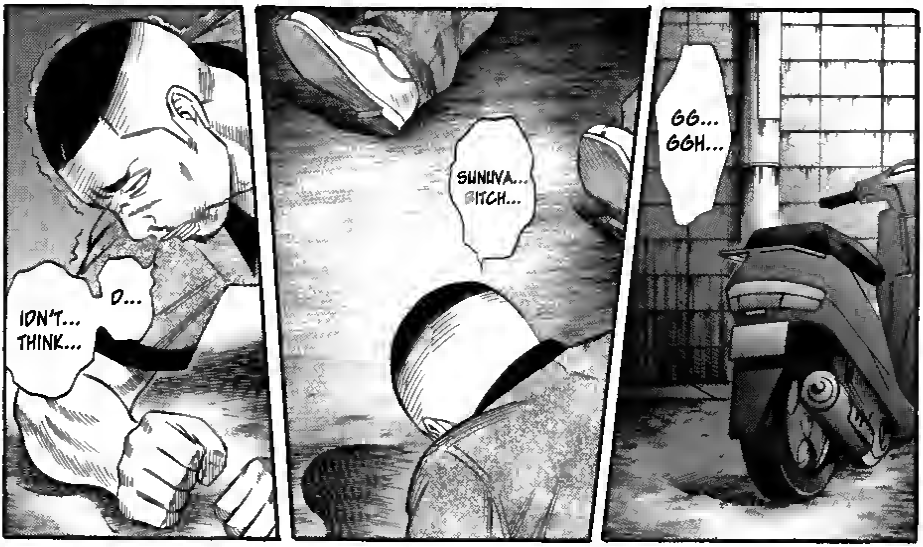
act.68 奇襲
~Ambush~


IDN'T...
THINK...
D...
SUNUVA...
@ITCH...
GG...
GGH...

THIS...
STRONG...
YER...

IZAWA MASAKI!!!

HEY! YOU OVER THERE...

I HAD A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...
BUT IT TURNS OUT TO BE JUST ANOTHER ONE OF YOSHII'S PATHETIC SCHEMES...

GUIDE ME FROM THIS POINT ON. I KNOW THERE ARE MORE TRAPS AHEAD...
IF YOU DON'T, I'LL MAKE IT SO YOU CAN'T CHEW ANYTHING FOR A WHOLE MONTH.
A-ALRIGHT!
OR——
IS THE OPENING PERFORMANCE OVER NOW?
THOSE IDIOTS JUST RAN OUT THERE ON THEIR OWN...
N-NO... I HAD NO PART IN THAT...
IT'S NOT BROKEN, BUT... OF ALL PLACES, MY FLANK...
MAYBE I CAN'T CALL THIS SCHEME PATHETIC AFTER ALL...
!!

RATHER THAN BECOMING A WEAKNESS, HOWEVER, IT CAUSES MORE SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN ATTACKING...
NO MATTER WHERE IT HAPPENS, DAMAGE CAN BE A HANDICAP, BUT DAMAGE TO THE SIDES ESPECIAL-LY CAN HAVE SERIOUS EFFECTS ON THE REST OF THE BODY.

SO FAR, EVERYTHING IS GOING EXACTLY AS YOSHII PLANNED.

UWAAH!
I can't believe it
Yeah he had like no power
ザワ
ザワ

IT'S IZAWA!
HE'S HEEEEERE!!!

STOP ACTING SO COOL!!
DIE!
HE REALLY CAME ALONE!
He's nuts!
LOSER!
IZA-WAAA!

WE'RE JUST WATCHING!
AW, LEAVE US ALONE!! WE'RE HOT SETA STUDENTS, SO WHAT DO YOU CARE WHAT WE THINK!?
HEY, LAY OFF IT, MAN...
YOU GOT SOME BALLS, PUNKS...

WHAT'S THAT, YOU SHIT-HEAD!?
WHOOOA, SO COOL!! IZAWA MASAKI!
HE'S JUST AS AWESOME AS I IM-AGINED!!!

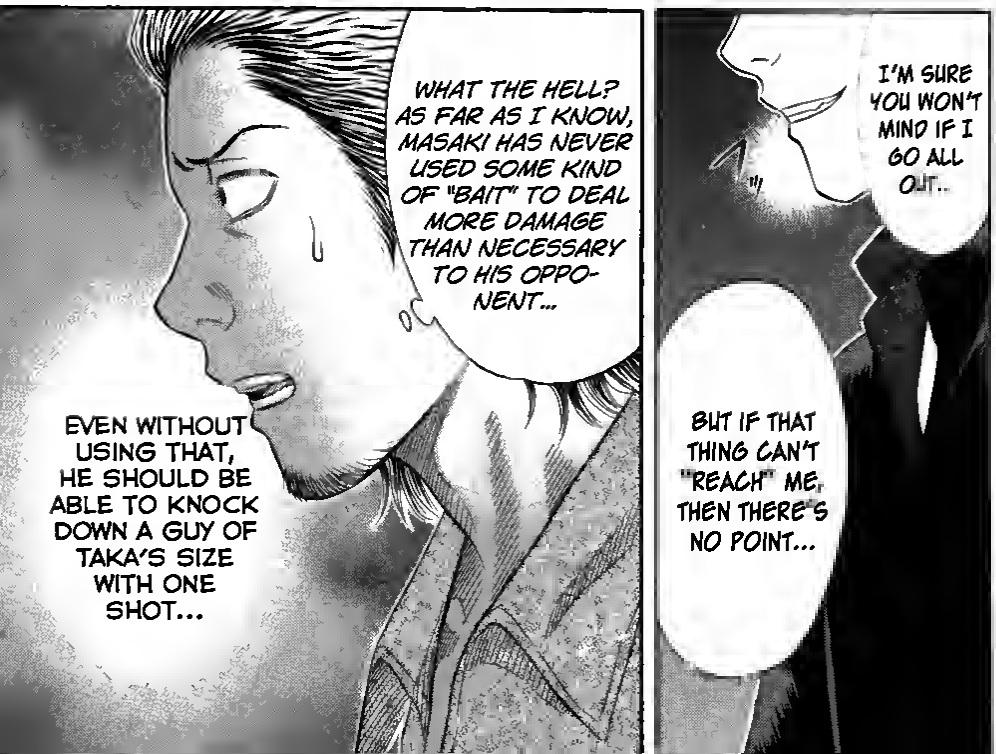
I PUT SPECIAL CARE INTO THE STAGE FOR YOUR VERSUS MATCH.
LIKE WHAT I DID?
I THOUGHT AT AWAY MATCHES, THE GALLERY'S SUPPOSED TO ALL BE WEARING UNIFORMS...
WHAT'S GOING ON? THERE'S EVEN STUDENTS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS HERE...
MASAKIIII...
SO HE REALLY DID COME... WELL, YEAH, I SORTA KNEW HE WOULD...
MASAKIIIIII!
HAVE MERCY ON MEEEE! SETA'S ON MY WAY HOME, I HAD NO CHOICE...

"WIND MAY BLOW, BUT THE MOUNTAINS NARY MOVE"... MUST BE SOME STRONG NERVES YOU'VE GOT THERE.
I LIKE IT!!

AGREEING TO AN ASSASSINATION SIMPLY OUT OF DUTY DIDN'T QUITE SIT RIGHT WITH ME... BUT THIS WORKS!
IT WORKS IF IT'S YOU!!!

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE EMPTY-HANDED, SO FEEL FREE TO PICK UP A BAT OR PIPE FROM OVER THERE.
I'LL BE USING THIS WOODEN SWORD.

*BRASS KUCKLES A METAL WEAPON ATTACHED TO THE KNUCKLES ITS FORM VARIES


WHAT THE HELL? AS FAR AS I KNOW, MASAKI HAS NEVER USED SOME KIND OF "BAIT" TO DEAL MORE DAMAGE THAN NECESSARY TO HIS OPPO-NENT...
EVEN WITHOUT USING THAT, HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO KNOCK DOWN A GUY OF TAKA'S SIZE WITH ONE SHOT...
I'M SURE YOU WON'T MIND IF I GO ALL OUT..
BUT IF THAT THING CAN'T "REACH" ME, THEN THERE'S NO POINT...

C'MON.
FINE...

ズキン
ズキン
ズキン
スッ
ピタ

IZA-WAAA!
KILL HIM!
YEAAAH, LET IT RIP, TAKA!!
THEY'RE GONNA START AL-READY!?

OR IS HE TRYING TO USE IT TO CUT THE DISTANCE...
A LEFT STANCE WITH BRASS KNUCKLES ON HIS LEFT...? ISN'T THAT SOMETHING TO USE ON YOUR ATTACKING FIST?

NAIVE... NO MATTER HOW MUCH DISTANCE YOU'RE ABLE TO CUT WITH THAT, YOU WILL NEVER REACH ME!

ピッ

OKAY, SO THAT'S IT...
HEH!
ス
ス
ヒュ
!

I'LL PLAY YOUR LITTLE GAME!
LET'S GO, THEN!

HE'S COMING.
I'M IN RANGE FOR BOTH YOUR WRISTS AND HEAD!!!
I REFUSE TO ALLOW MY ATTACKS TO BE UNDERES-TIMATED...

IYAAAAHH!!

ビュ
GOTCHA!!

WHA-!?

ТССССННН!
ГИ
ГИ
ШШШШННН!

TCCH...!
GGGH
SHAL-
LOW!!!
GGGGH

IZA-WAAAA-
WHA... T.
OWAAH ...
ウオオオオオオ
TA-KAAA!!
PUT YOUR ALL INTO IT!!
AWE-SOME!
IZA-WAAAA!!
hah
DID I JUST END UP HURTING MYSELF MORE IN THE PROCESS...?
hah
hah
I WAS A HALF-STEP TOO SHALLOW...

USING BRASS KNUCKLES NOT AS A WEAPON BUT AS A SHIELD...
FLAWLESS... YOU ARE THE REAL THING AFTER ALL!

I'VE WANTED TO MEET A MAN LIKE YOU...
IF I LET THIS DRAG ON, I WON'T BE ABLE TO WIN...
THE NEXT EXCHANGE WILL DECIDE EVERYTHING!

Scanning & Typesetting: GGpX
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act.69 覚醒
~Disillusion~

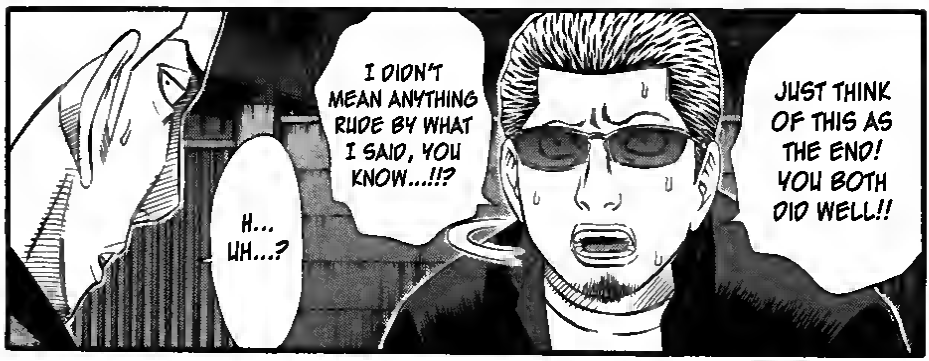
オオオオオ
ウオオ
Takaaaaaa!
Kill
him!
Dimeeeee!

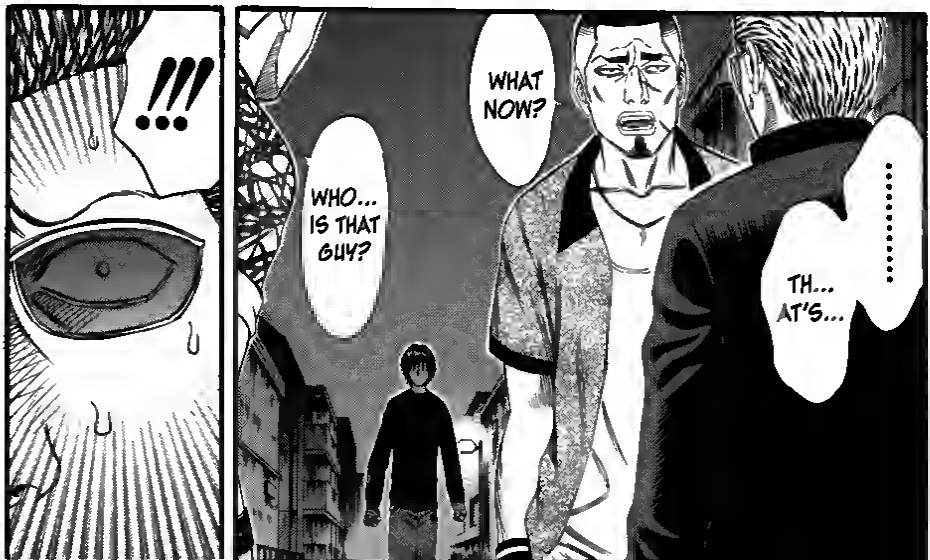
NOW, NOW, NO NEED TO GET WORRIED.

YEAH, SOUNDS CHEERY AWRIGHT..
SURE LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE GETTING EXCITED OVER THERE...

MY CHIN STILL HURTS!
DAMN WELL BETTER!! DON'T EXPECT US TA GO CHASIN' HIM DOWN AGAIN AFTER WHAT HE DID TA US!!
WE'RE VERY THANKFUL...
THANKS TO YOUR WORK, IT LOOKS LIKE THINGS WILL TURN OUT JUST FINE...

I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D BE ABLE TO RECOVER FROM GETTING HIT WITH A METAL PIPE...
TO THINK IZAWA COULD TAKE YOU TWO... HE REALLY IS SOMETHING!
ARE YOU BRAINDEAD OR SOMETNIN'!? THE ONE WHO TOLD US NOT TA DO NIM WAS YOU, NUMBNUTS!!
WE CAN GO TAKE HIM OUT RIGHT NOW IF YOU'D LIKE!
HE CAUGHT US OFF GUARD!! IZAWA AIN'T GOT SHIT ON US!!!
I KNOW... I KNOW!


JUST THINK OF THIS AS THE END! YOU BOTH DID WELL!!
I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING RUDE BY WHAT I SAID, YOU KNOW...!!?
H... WH...?


!!!
WHAT NOW?
WHO... IS THAT GUY?
TH... AT'S...

hah
hah
hah
hah
hah

WHAAAT!?
THE THUG HUNTER.... KA... KAMI-SHIRO!!!
WHAT THE?

SOUNDS FUN!
S-STOP HIM AT ONCE!!!
D-DON'T LET HIM INSIDE!!
THAT'S THE THUG HUNTER!? I ALWAYS WANTED TO GIVE IT A GO WITH THAT GUY!

!
WE AIN'T GONNA GO EASY ON HIM DIS TIME, EITHER!
FINE, ANYTHING!! JUST DO NOT LET HIM IN!!!!
WE'LL BE EXPECTING A SEPARATE PAYMENT FOR THIS!

HIS EYES LOOK LIKE HE KNOWS WASSUP, TOO... JUST LIKE DA RUMORS!
Got da body of a pipsqueak, though...
HEY. IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOT BANDIES* WRAPPED ON HIS HANDS!! HE'S READY TO ROCK'N'ROLL!
HE'S GONNA COME AT US FO' REAL!!!

*Bandages

WHY ARE THESE PEOPLE... STANDING IN THE ROAD? IT'S LIKE THEY'RE WAITING TO AMBUSH SOMEONE...
I... CAME TO SEE IZAWA-SAN... COULD YOU LET ME BY?

THEY BOTH HAVE SOLID BODIES... AND IT LOOKS LIKE THEY CAN FIGHT
IF I GET SURROUN DED——
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT. LET'S BE FRIENDS HERE...
HEY, DAT AIN'T VERY NICE, MAN... PLAY WIT' US TOO!

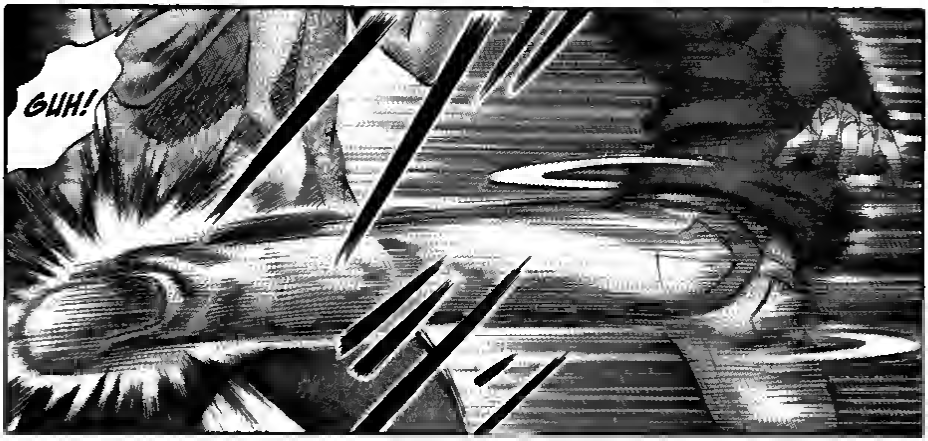
!
ORAHH!!!

RAAH!
Ah!

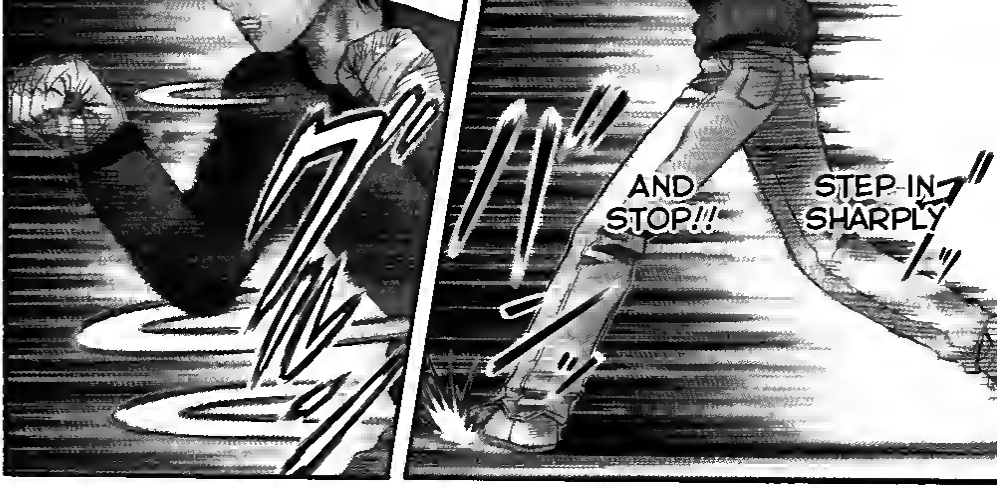
AHH!
WHA... T..!?
!?

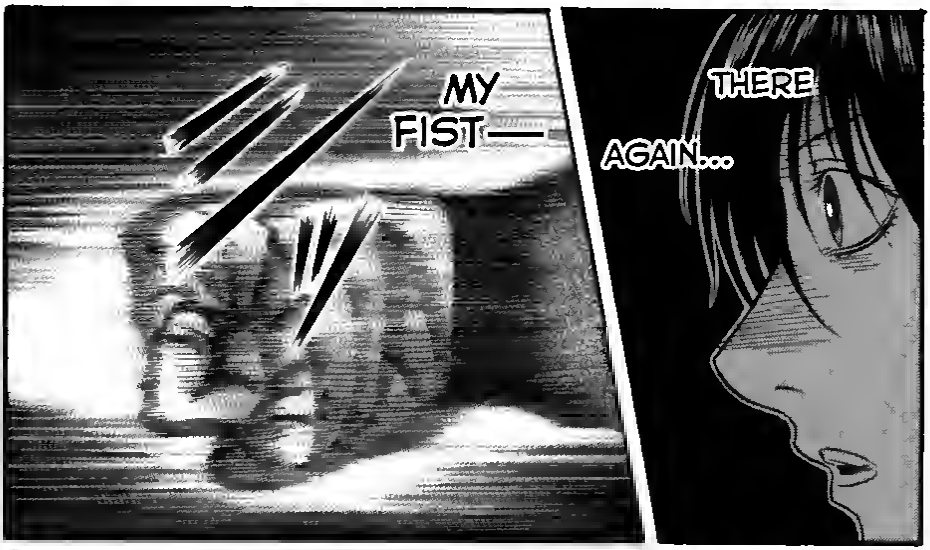
UOOOHHH!
UH...
MY FIST HIT FIRST!?
EVEN THOUGH I SENT IT OUT AFTER-WARDS ...!?
OH ...?
OH-
...!

AH...IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN...


GUH!

AGGH!
AGAH!
AGH!
TONS OF FORCE INTO MY UPPER BODY!!!
MY HIPS ARE SENDING—


AND STOP!!
STEP IN SHARPLY


MY FIST—
THERE AGAIN...

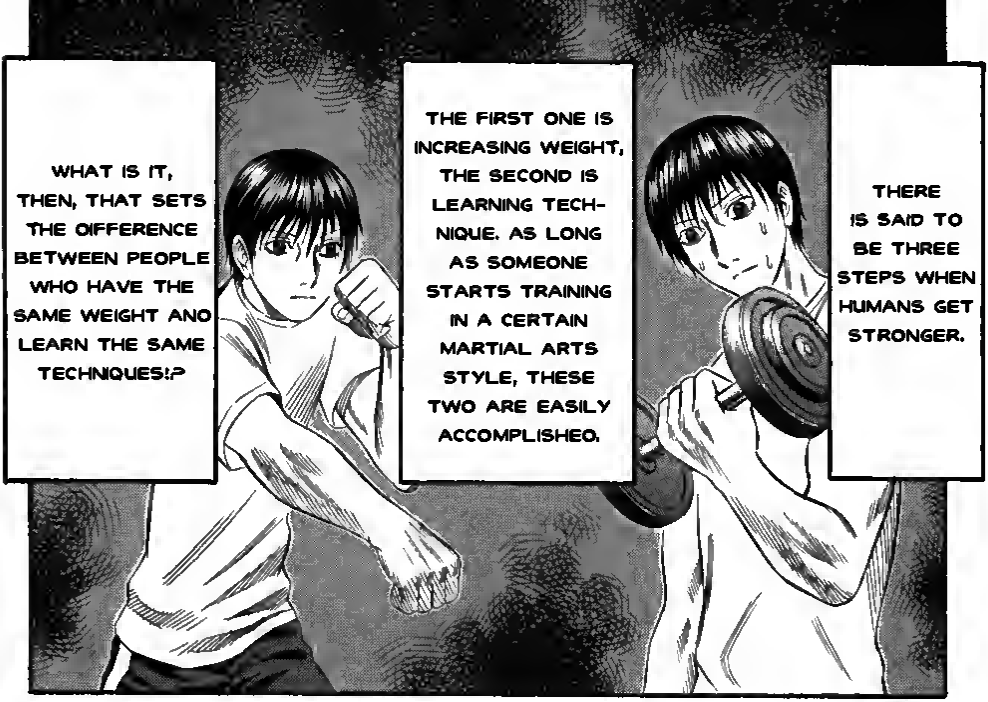
IS RUNNING!!!!

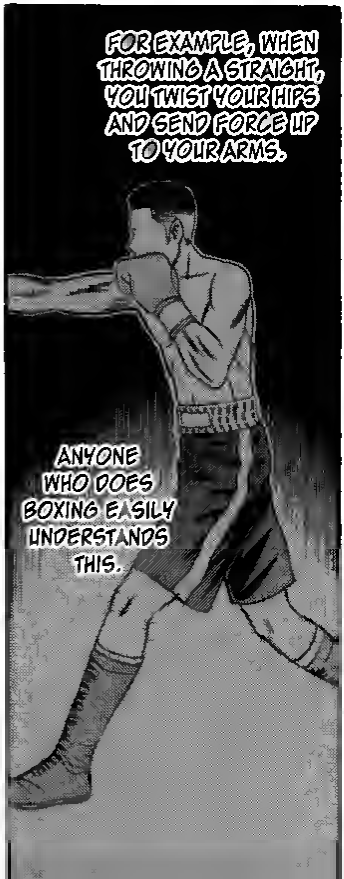
UOOOHHHHH!!
MY LEGS——
ARE RUNNING!!!

ARE SO LIGHT...
MY FISTS AND FEET...
WHAT IS THIS?
MY LEGS AND ARMS ARE EXTENDING...

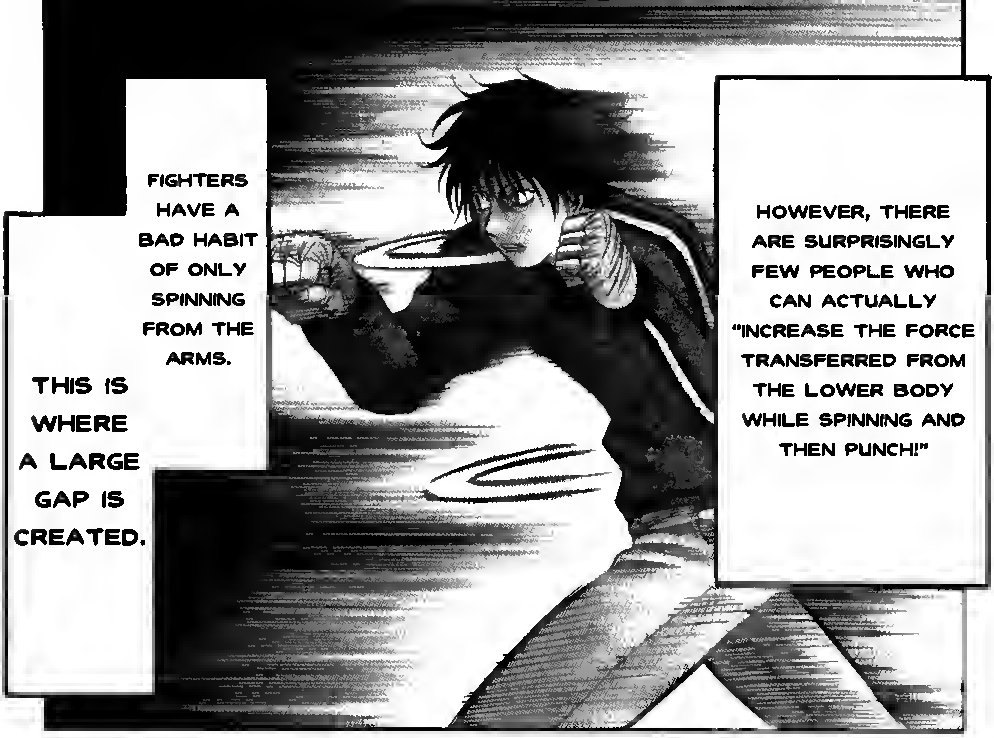
Ah!
WHAT IS THIS... FEELING?
To strikers everything relies on—
These aren't amateur punches that rely only on armpower.
THAT'S IT.

THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SHARP!!!
THIS IS SHARP-NESS!!!
YUU, WHO HAS STARTED TO EXPERIENCE A CERTAIN FEELING-- JUST WHAT IS HAPPENING WITHIN?
I GET IT, SHOUGO-KUN!!!
I GET IT... I GET IT.
YES!

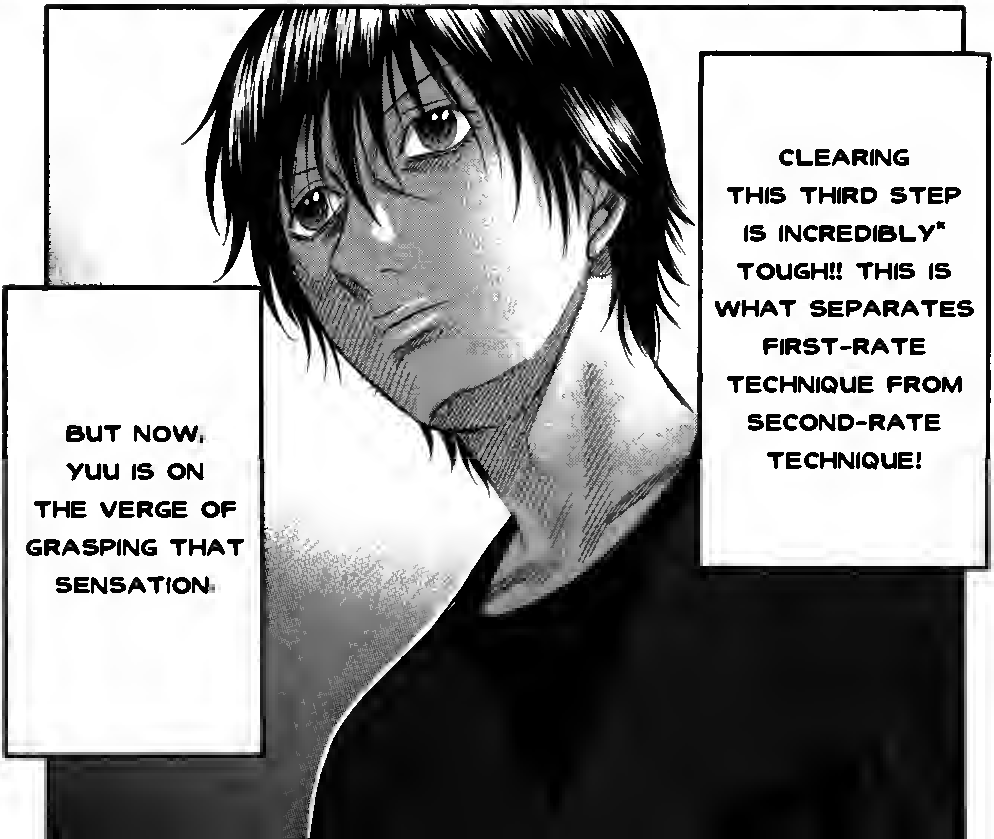

WHAT IS IT, THEN, THAT SETS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE SAME WEIGHT AND LEARN THE SAME TECHNIQUES!?
THE FIRST ONE IS INCREASING WEIGHT, THE SECOND IS LEARNING TECHNIQUE. AS LONG AS SOMEONE STARTS TRAINING IN A CERTAIN MARTIAL ARTS STYLE, THESE TWO ARE EASILY ACCOMPLISHED.
THERE IS SAID TO BE THREE STEPS WHEN HUMANS GET STRONGER.


FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN THROWING A STRAIGHT, YOU TWIST YOUR HIPS AND SEND FORCE UP TO YOUR ARMS.
ANYONE WHO DOES BOXING EASILY UNDERSTANDS THIS.

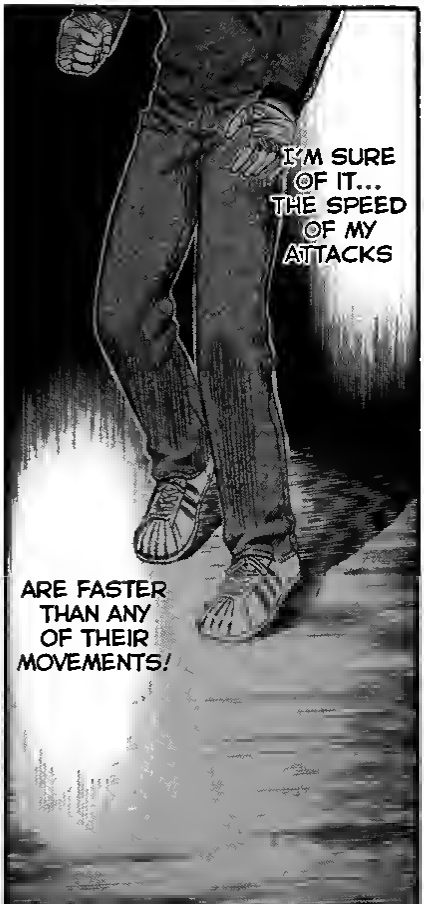
THAT IS THE THIRD STEP—— "UNDERSTANDING THE THEORY BEHIND TECHNIQUES, THEN FEELING THEM OUT AND UTILIZING THEM!!!"


FIGHTERS HAVE A BAD HABIT OF ONLY SPINNING FROM THE ARMS.
THIS IS WHERE A LARGE GAP IS CREATED.
HOWEVER, THERE ARE SURPRISINGLY FEW PEOPLE WHO CAN ACTUALLY "INCREASE THE FORCE TRANSFERRED FROM THE LOWER BODY WHILE SPINNING AND THEN PUNCH!"

*IT'S A PROBLEM OF SENSE, AND IS DIFFICULT TO TEACH


CLEARING THIS THIRD STEP IS INCREDIBLY* TOUGH!! THIS IS WHAT SEPARATES FIRST-RATE TECHNIQUE FROM SECOND-RATE TECHNIQUE!
BUT NOW, YUU IS ON THE VERGE OF GRASPING THAT SENSATION.

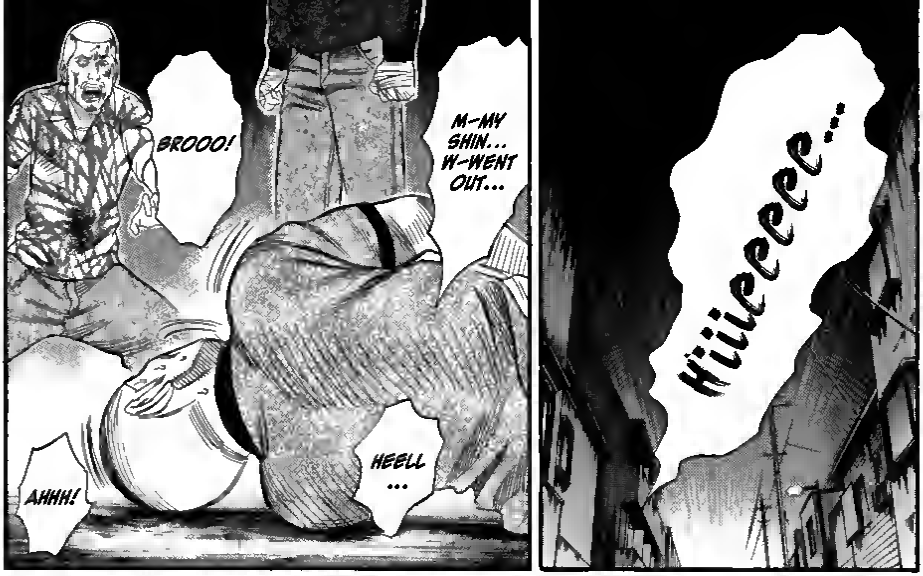
THESE TWO ARE... INCREDIBLY TOUGH...
BUT.
!
Y-
YOU..!
SUNUVA.. BITCH!
BO..


I'M SURE OF IT... THE SPEED OF MY ATTACKS
ARE FASTER THAN ANY OF THEIR MOVEMENTS!

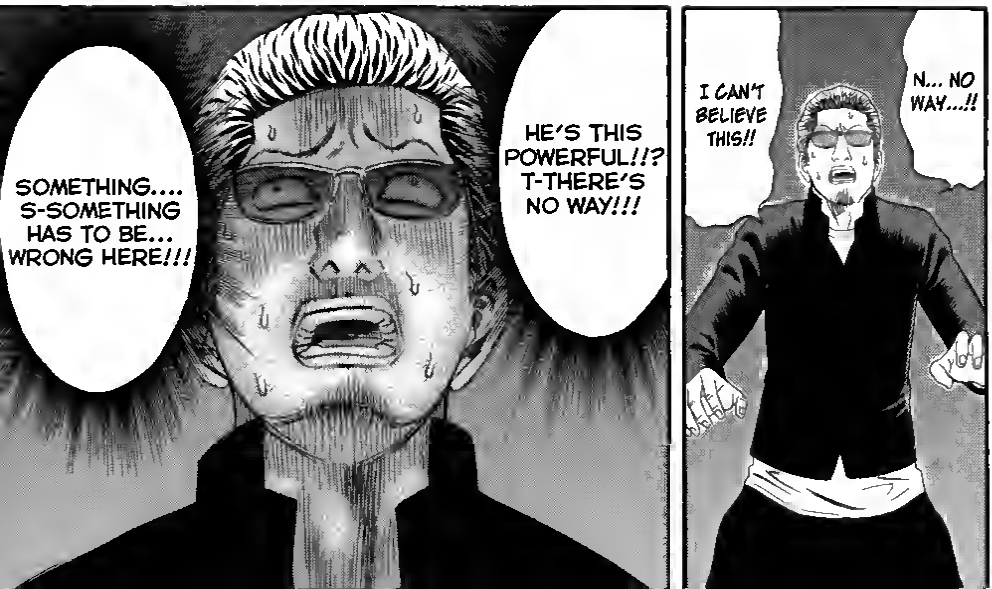
YOU SHOULD STOP.

SH...UT THE FUCK UP, BITCH!

FROM ANY ANGLE AT ALL!
THAT I CAN GO IN
IT'S THE FIRST TIME...
I'VE EVER FELT THIS.
7
OHHHHH!


BROOO!
M-MY SHIN... W-WENT OUT...
AHHH!
HEELL ...
Kiiieeee...

hah
hah
hah
Y... YOUUUU!!
AHHH, BRO...
GUAAH...


SOMETHING.... S-SOMETHING HAS TO BE... WRONG HERE!!!
HE'S THIS POWERFUL!!? T-THERE'S NO WAY!!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!!
N... NO WAY...!!

HIIEE!
ビク
7

GUIDE ME INSIDE!!
TO WHERE IZAWA-SAN IS!!!
7

act.70 返答
~Reply~

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IZAWA REALLY CAN'T BE UNDERESTIMATED... TAKA'S EYES CHANGED WITH THAT LAST EXCHANGE.
HOWEVER ...
THAT ISN'T NORMAL SWEAT... IT LOOKS LIKE TANABE AND THE INOGATA BROTHERS DID THEIR JOB CORRECTLY.
VICTORY IS IN MY SIGHTS.
I SHOWED HIM THIS FIST... NOW HE'LL NEVER FALL FOR IT AGAIN.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
THE RISK DIDN'T PAY OFF—

HE CAN'T BE THINKING OF BLOCKING EVERY SINGLE STRIKE OF MINE WITH THOSE BRASS KNUCKLES...
THAT WON'T WORK ANYMORE.
BUT...

I RESPECT YOU—
YOU REALLY ARE SOMETHING...

CHEEEEHHH!!
IZAWA MASAKI!!!

AND THEN GET INSIDE!!!
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DODGE THE FIRST STRIKE SOMEHOW!!

A THRUST!!
I DODGED IT!!
ALRIGHT!!
NOT GOOD ENOUGH!!!

ZZZ

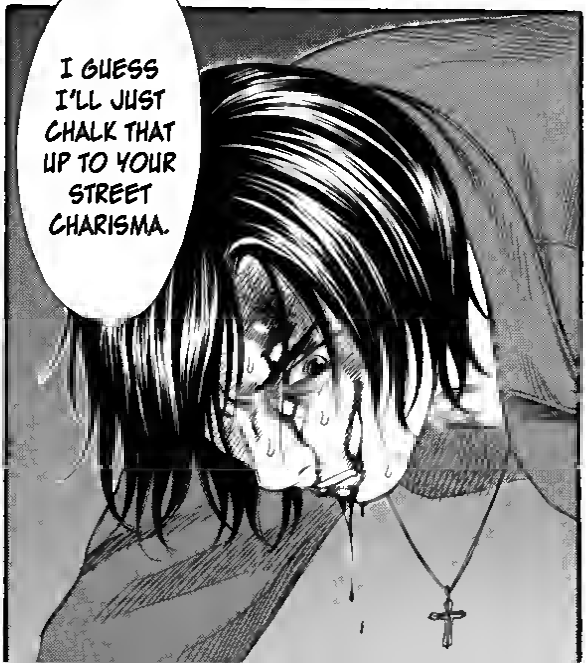
ナイ!!

VICTORY
...IS MINE.

AN OPPONENT HAS NEVER TAKEN SEVERAL ATTACKS FROM ME AND KEPT STANDING BEFORE.
TO BE HONEST, I'M SURPRISED...

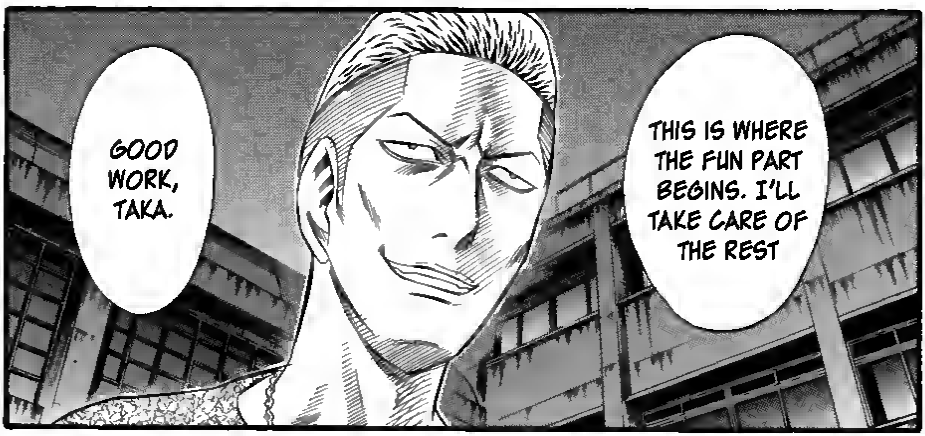
NO... WAY!
BUT...!! IT WAS SO EASY ...

EASY... HUH...


I GUESS I'LL JUST CHALK THAT UP TO YOUR STREET CHARISMA.

WELL, KAMISHIRO...? TSUCHIYA...?
I'M NOT THE MAN YOU TWO IMAGINED...
CHARISMA IS JUST SOMETHING SOME BORED PERSON DREAMED UP.
I'VE KNOWN MY TRUE SELF FOR A VEEEERY
LONG...
TIME.
I FALL INTO PATHETIC SCHEMES,
JUST LIKE SO.
AN ENDING LIKE THIS
IS SO BEFITTING.

ALLLRIGHT! THIS IS THE END OF DEMON-STRATION HOUR,
SO CLEAR ON OUTTA HERE!!
NO, NO, WE'RE NOT FINISHED YET.

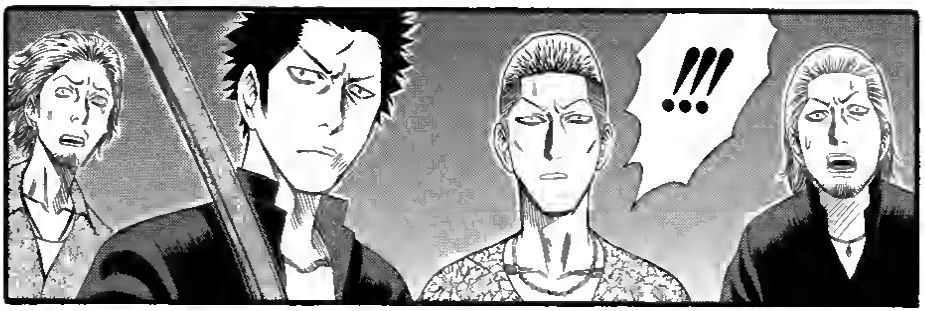

THIS IS WHERE THE FUN PART BEGINS. I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST
GOOD WORK, TAKA.

WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO TO HIM NOW? THAT'S TOO DANGEROUS, YOSHII-SAN.
ONLY HIS HEAD IS INJURED RIGHT NOW, WE'D BET-TER JUST LET HIM GO...
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME? I SAID I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.
NOW IF YOU DON'T LISTEN TO ME, THEN I CAN'T GUARANTEE ANYTHING...

S-
SOMEONE HELP MEEEE!!
JUST WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN...?
!
!!
IT'S... HIM!
H... HELP!
.....
TANABE ...?
?

I TRIED... TO STOP HIM, BUT... IT'S... TOO...
HE'S... A MONSTER!!! HE TOOK OUT THE BROTHERS... IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE...

IMPOSSI... BLE...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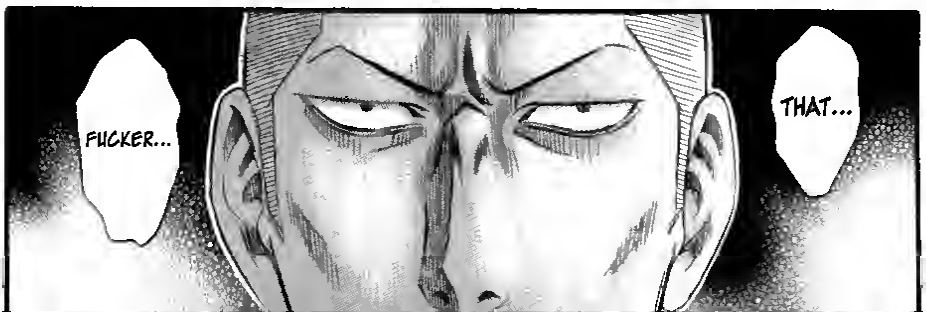

FUCKER...
THAT...

7

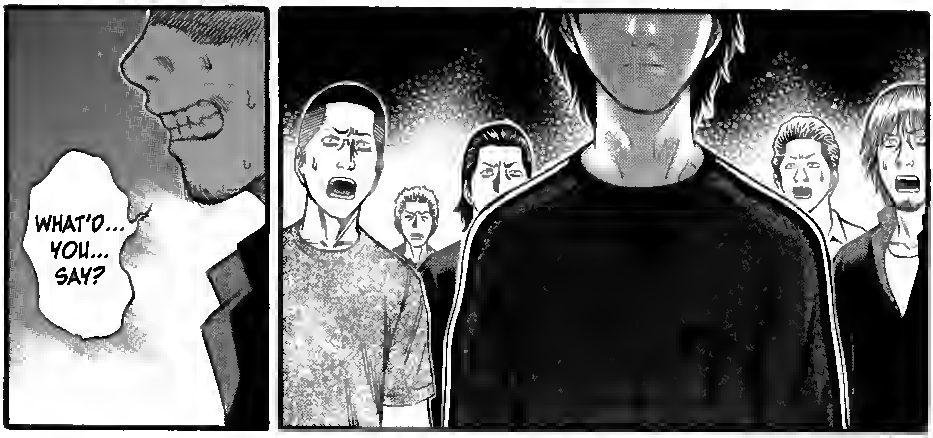
KILL 'EM ALL!
YEAAAAH!
KAMI-SHI-ROOO!
THUG HUNT-ERRR!!!
TH...
TH...

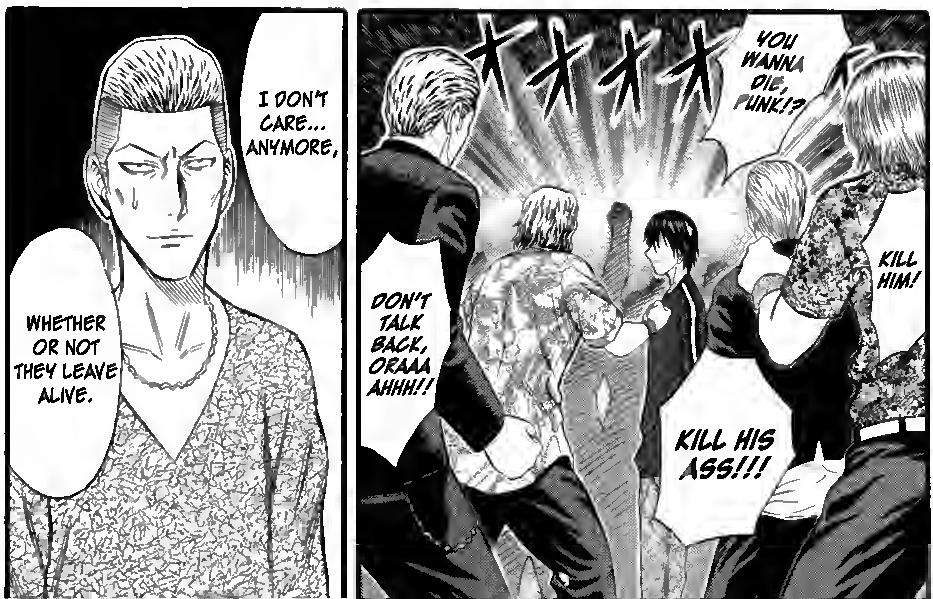
7
KAMI-
SHIRO...
WHY...
DID YOU...
COME?

AGAIN.
AHH...
MESS UP.
I ALWAYS...
BUT,
I KNOW.
I KNOW.

I KNOW THIS
UNBEAR-ABLE FEELING !!!
YOU SURE CAME AT THE WRONG TIME...
THINK WE'LL LET YOU LEAVE THIS PLACE IN ONE PIECE?

SHUT UP.


WHAT'D... YOU... SAY?


I DON'T CARE... ANYMORE,
WHETHER OR NOT THEY LEAVE ALIVE.
YOU WANNA DIE, PUNK!?
KILL HIM!
DON'T TALK BACK, ORAAA AHHH!!
KILL HIS ASS!!!

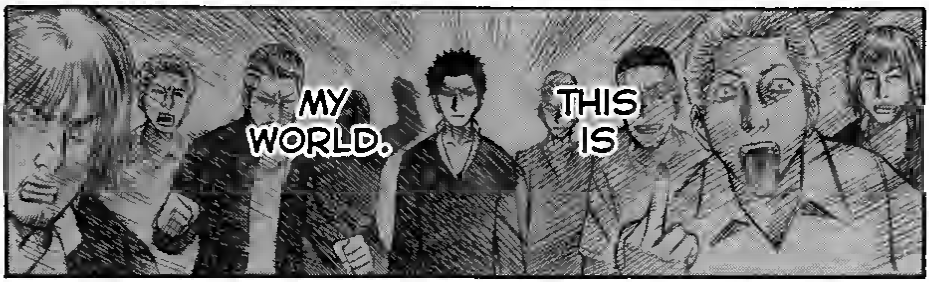
I'VE HARDENED MY FISTS.
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO TALK.
AND I DON'T INTEND TO LEAVE IN ONE PIECE.
BUT I'M NOT SCARED.
ALL I KNOW IS THAT I WILL ANSWER MALICE...
WITH VIOLENCE.

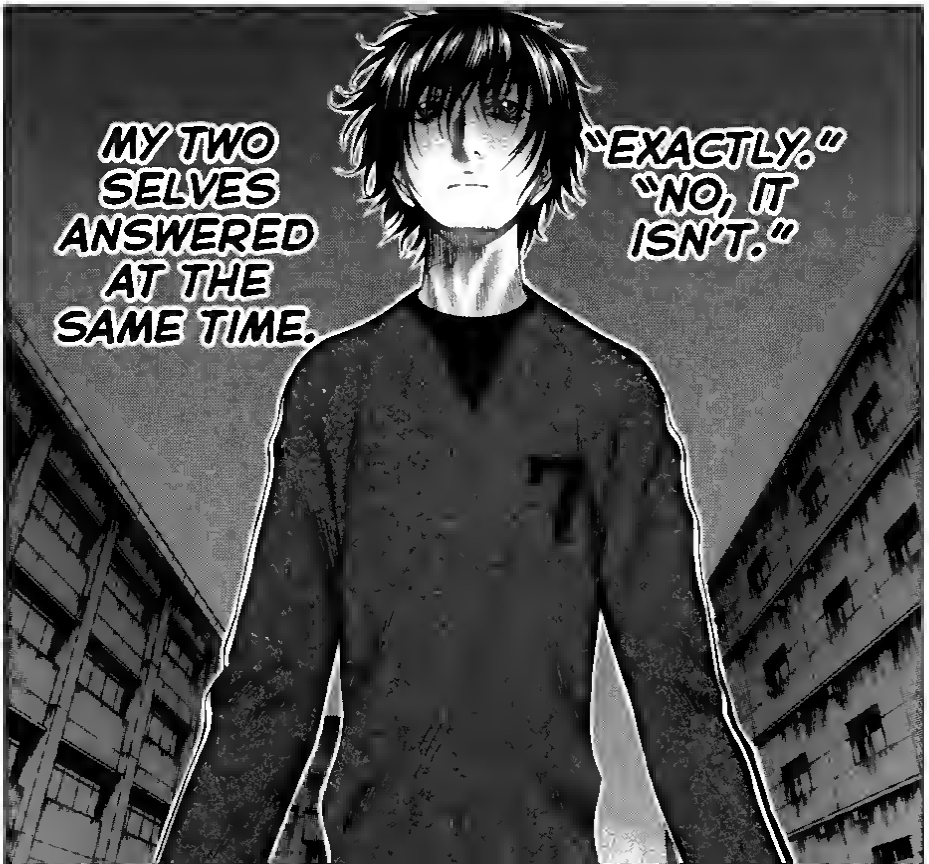
NICE, NICE...
YOU AREN'T TOO BAD EITHER!

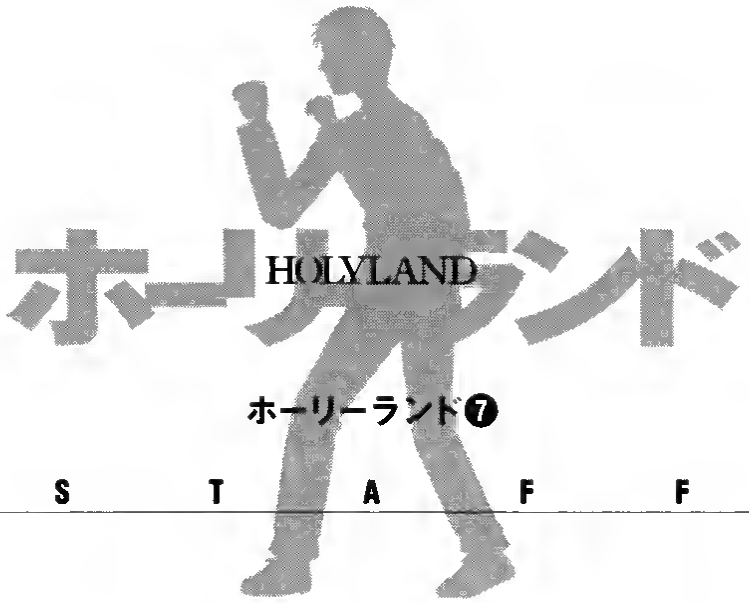
STAY BACK.
TAKA... YOU——

BESIDES, IT LOOKS LIKE HE WANTS REVENGE ON ME ANYWAY!!
YOU THINK I CAN RESIST GOING UP AGAINST SUCH A TASTY OPPONENT!?

KILL HIM, TAKA!!
MY BODY IS SINGING WITH VIOLENCE...
ANGER... IS DISSIPATING MY FEAR.
DON'T OVERDO IT... HE ISN'T A LIGHTWEIGHT...
I DON'T EXPECT HIM TO BE.
DIE!
DO IT!


MY WORLD.
THIS IS


MY TWO SELVES ANSWERED AT THE SAME TIME.
"EXACTLY."
"NO, IT ISN'T."



ホーリーランド❼

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予告
剣対拳!!!
やるしかない!!!
完全復活を果たした神代ユウの"拳"は凄まじい破壊力を得ていた。
その力に対抗心を燃やすタカもまた、己の"剣"に絶対の自信を持っていた。
激突する両者の拳と剣!
予断を許さない対決の行方は如何に……!?
ホーリーランド
HOLYLAND
森恒二
第8巻2004年夏発行予定!!!!!

●初出一覧

act.61　剣道～Kendo～……●ヤングアニマル(2003年10号)
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JETS COMICS 988

ホーリーランド7

2004年3月5日第1刷発行
2005年3月21日第4刷発行

著　者　森　恒二
©Kouji Mori 2004
発行人　角南 攻
発行所　株式会社白泉社　〒101-0063　東京都千代田区神田淡路町2-2-2
電話［編集］03-3526-8055
［販売］03-3526-8010
［業務］03-3526-8020
印刷所　株式会社廣済堂
装丁者　柴田昌房（30A）

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ISBN4-592-13747-7
Printed in Japan HAKUSENSHA　白泉社ホームページ　http://www.hakusensha.co.jp